

MORTAL KOMBAT

Written by

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Pink Revised, 6-28-94  
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## MORTAL KOMBAT

FADE IN:

1 EXT. LIU KANG'S VILLAGE -DAY

1

In a disjointed DREAM SEQUENCE a young Asian man, LIU KANG, wanders through his native Chinese village, which is empty, with tumbleweeds blowing. It seems stark and unnatural. An evil wind moans through the mysteriously empty houses. Liu is dressed in modern American clothing and carries a small carry on bag, as if he has just arrived. An ancient temple nestles in a hillside at the far end of the village. A dark cloud covers the sun, and the wind turns cold. Liu looks to a nearby hill. Two figures fight, silhouetted against the sky, circling around an ancient altar of stone.

A raven calls high overhead. Liu looks up at the bird, which soars and circles. When Liu looks back at the hilltop, one of the figures is staggering back as the other attacks. Because this is a dream, Liu can suddenly see the face of his brother, CHAN. Chan falls back before the attack of his opponent, clad in black silk, whose face he cannot see. Chan, strangely, seems to look right at Liu, and in a frightened, despairing voice, cries out....

CHAN

Liu!

The second fighter lands a deadly blow, and Chan crumples to the hard stones. The second fighter stands over his inert form a moment, and then turns to gaze impassively down on Liu. Again, in the dream, Liu can clearly see the features of SHANG TSUNG. Shang now turns and looks straight at Liu. He thrusts his hand skyward in a talon-like gesture. It summons a flock of shadow birds that burst into the sky, devouring all light in their path, bringing Darkness, which spreads from the hill, toward the village. The Darkness reaches out to envelope everything... a surging Void which flutters, pulsates, swarms over the dreamer, WIPING THE FRAME.

LIU

(screams)

Chan!

End the DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. LIU KANG'S APARTMENT - AMERICAN CITY - DAWN

2

Liu awakens in a tangle of sheets, calling his brother's name.

LIU

Chan!

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

Liu blinks at the familiar surroundings of his room, simple but modern furnishings, a stereo... and nearly smiles at the reassurance the familiar things give him after the dream. A nearly packed suitcase reminds him of something. His eyes fix on the crumpled telegram on the night table next to his bed, and another nightmare floods over him.... Only this one will not go away. Liu switches on the lamp, picks up the telegram and rereads it. But the message has not changed...he hasn't dreamed it.

LIU

(grieving)  
Chan.

Liu throws the telegram down.

ZOOM IN ON

The telegram which reads, simply: BROTHER DEAD. RETURN HOME.  
GRANDFATHER.

3 EXT. ROOFTOP - AMERICAN CITY - NIGHT

3

A young American man, JOHNNY CAGE, dressed like a very hip cop with a turtleneck sweater wearing an Italian sports coat, fights four Armani-clad, good looking men using sophisticated weapons. But, in an incredible display of grace and martial arts skill, Johnny takes down one tough guy after another, until there remains only one. Johnny drops to one knee, punching the thug very low. The big dude stands over Johnny, frozen, confused.

JOHNNY

This is where you fall down.

Enlightened, the big dude dramatically keels over. Johnny shakes his head, rises and turns away, throwing his arms up in despair.

JOHNNY

Where do you get these guys!

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Cut!

NEW ANGLE

We now see the camera and lights. Johnny and the others have been acting a scene from an action film. The DIRECTOR approaches, apologetic. The stunt men climb to their feet.

DIRECTOR

Sorry, Johnny.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

JOHNNY

You'll be sorrier when they pull you off  
my next picture, Paul.

DIRECTOR

All right, everybody. Reset! We go  
again in fifteen minutes!

JOHNNY

(stalking off)  
I'm not doing it, again.

Johnny walks away.

DIRECTOR

Johnny, its the last shot of the  
picture. We're losing our light here.

But Johnny continues to walk away but an Assistant Director  
intercepts him.

A.D.

Johnny, there's someone in your trailer,  
who wants to talk to you....

JOHNNY

It better not be a reporter.

4 EXT. ROOFTOP - CRAFT SERVICES TABLE - ON TABLOID

4 \*

The Tabloid headline reads: JOHNNY CAGE A PHONY!... with a picture  
of Johnny yelling at a paparazzi underneath. A man sits casually  
by the table, reading the inside story as Johnny storms up.

WIDER

JOHNNY

Hey, I don't give interviews without....

The man reading the paper, BILL BOYD, lowers it, smiling. Johnny's  
expression turns from anger to one of awe and respect.

BOYD

Hi, Johnny.

JOHNNY

(astonished)  
Master Boyd! Sorry, I didn't....

Johnny has lost his arrogance. He bows and eagerly shakes the  
older man's hand.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

BOYD

(nods to paper)

I see the press is still giving you a hard time.

JOHNNY

They think I'm a big fake.

BOYD

I know you're not.

JOHNNY

(new thought)

Sensai, you were my idol, growing up. It means a lot, you saying that.

BOYD

Johnny, you're one of the best martial artists in the world. And I know a way you can prove it.

JOHNNY

Prove it? How?

BOYD

A tournament. The Tournament. Held once a generation.

Boyd takes a small scroll with ebony handles out of a pocket and hands it to Johnny.

THE SCROLL

When unrolled, is inscribed with Chinese characters and the Mortal Kombat logo in the center.

JOHNNY

I've gotta brush up on my Chinese.

BOYD

It's the most ancient tournament in the world.... Held on an island in the South China Sea.

JOHNNY

I've never heard of it.

BOYD

All the participants are sworn to secrecy.

JOHNNY

How can a secret tournament get me better press?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 2

4

BOYD

The best fighters in the world are invited. If you win The Tournament, you'll win their respect. They'll tell the entire world you're the real goods.

JOHNNY

I... I'm supposed to be prepping for my next film as soon as this one raps tonight. I just don't see....

Boyd stares silently at him, then reaches for the scroll.

BOYD

Of course. If your reputation isn't as important as the box office, then....

JOHNNY

No! I mean... I'll work around it. I'm honored.

BOYD

(smiles)

I've got a lot of faith in you.

JOHNNY

How do I, uh...?

BOYD

There's a boat, The Dragon's Wing, docked at pier forty in Hong Kong, tomorrow night. Be on it.

Off Johnny's thoughtful reaction:

5 OMITTED

5

Boyd shakes hands with Johnny.

JOHNNY

Thanks for everything.

BOYD

See you in the movies.

Johnny turns back towards set as Boyd walks away. Boyd walks past the electricians and grips, and, once out of sight, we hear very faintly, the cacophonous sound of many voices crying out in anguish... a dissonant music we will hear again... as "Boyd" morphs slowly into the features of Shang Tsung, the Sorcerer.

6 EXT. HONG KONG PANORAMA - NIGHT

6

\*

Establishing.

\*

7 INT. HONG KONG INDUSTRIAL TECHNO-CLUB - NIGHT

Close-up of a video wall. A tacky tourist commercial with shots of Hong Kong plays, with an Asian woman who speaks directly to camera, "Welcome to Hong Kong home of fine food and ancient traditions, where you will always receive a happy welcome." SONYA BLADE, Special Forces team leader, beautiful and hard as nails, steps into frame in front of the video monitor, Israeli riot gun in hand. She cocks the gun.

SONYA

Let's go.

7A OMITTED

SONYA

(into wireless headset)  
Sixty seconds to target acquisition.  
Jaxx are all exits secured?

Behind her, JAXX, her African-American second-in-command replies.

JAXX

Locked down tight.

SONYA

They better be. I want Kano.

JAXX

Trust me.

The two storm down a narrow corridor into the depths of the club.

SONYA

I trust one person on the planet, Jaxx,  
and you're talking to her.

8 OMITTED

9 INT. TECHNO CLUB - CONTINUOUS

Sonya and the three members of her strike team fan out inside. The interior has a loud, hip band suspended on a moving platform above the crowd, with strobing lights and stage smoke. The room is crammed with people slam dancing. Sprinkled throughout are Kano's men, some of them are armed. They go down bloodlessly in hand to hand combat with Sonya's strike team. Many of the fights are lit with a staccato strobe light.

SONYA

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Moves in a direct line through the building, knocking aside anyone who gets in her way. She is driven, kinetic, never stopping as she uses all available cover to further infiltrate the club. Shouts, and more hand to hand combat all round. Sonya ignores most of the battles and keeps searching. She's looking for someone. A ruffian surprises her. She kicks his weapon away, and slams him hard with the butt of her gun, then continues, as if he were nothing but a nuisance.

10 INT. TECHNO CLUB OFFICE - NIGHT

10

The office has a soundproof wall of glass to the club interior. A large man peers out the window, one of his eyes is glowing red. This is KANO. He smiles, saunters over to a large packing crate, shoves it aside with his incredible strength, to reveal a large, heavy grate, leading down into the sewer. Shang Tsung sits across from him, watching impassively. Again using his brawn, Kano lifts the heavy grate.

KANO

You sure she'll follow me down here?

SHANG

After what you did to her partner, she'll follow you into hell. Just make sure she gets on that boat.

KANO

She'll be there... Special Delivery.

SHANG

Deliver her alive.

INSIDE CLUB

Sonya's still crossing the dance floor and speaks into her headset.

SONYA

Kano's in the office. I'm going in.

Sonya moves quickly toward the club office, gun ready.

JAXX (O.S.)

(over headset)

Negative. Wait for backup!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

JAXX (O.S.) (cont'd)

(O.S.)

11 INT. TECHNO-CLUB OFFICE

11 \*

A guard in front of the office levels his gun at Sonya. She fires at him, blasting him through the glass wall with a rubber Sabot slug from her riot gun. Sonya rushes through the opening, tucks, rolls, and comes up ready to blow anyone in there away. There is a large raven on a perch. Then Sonya sees the open grate. She grabs the thug she blasted through the window, yanks him up...

SONYA

Where is he?

CUT TO:

The raven croaks, a strange "wood chime" sound, which catches her attention. She stares at the large, impassive bird, puzzled.

12 EXT. LIU KANG'S VILLAGE - DAY

12

Liu Kang, in his leather jacket, blue jeans and work shirt, stands just outside his native village as a bush taxi - marked Hong Kong Taxi Co. Ltd. - drives off. The village looks exactly like his dream - so much so that he actually looks over the rice paddy at the neighboring hill. No one stands there, now. Liu's GRANDFATHER, comes slowly toward him, his back bowed with grief, but his face full of joy at seeing Liu. The old man embraces his grandson.

GRANDFATHER

It's good you are here.

LIU

I wasn't here for Chan.

GRANDFATHER

(a moment)

He spoke of you, daily. You were his big brother... almost a father since your parents "left us." He was so proud of you, living in America. He wanted you to be happy.

Liu is pierced by pangs of guilt as they walk into the village.

LIU

How did he die, Grandfather?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

GRANDFATHER

After you left he followed in your footsteps... preparing for The Tournament.

Liu stops and stares. His voice rises in anger.

LIU

The Tournament? It wasn't enough you filled my head with that... nonsense?

The Grandfather is hurt. Liu feels even more guilty.

GRANDFATHER

To save the world from an... unspeakable fate is not nonsense.

LIU

Men fighting in a simple contest don't decide these things, Grandfather! How can you, a wise man, believe this?

GRANDFATHER

Chan believed in it. He trained very hard. He could never be as good as you... but he tried to be worthy to represent the Order of Light.

LIU

How did it happen?

GRANDFATHER

I don't know for certain. I was away when... a stranger came.

#### NEW ANGLE - THE VILLAGE

In FLASHBACK as the Grandfather narrates we see the stranger enter the village, dressed in black silk, his back to us. High overhead, a raven turns in a narrowing gyre, croaking its strange "wind chime" call. The stranger continues through the village to...

13 EXT. RICE PADDY

13

The stranger stops. Liu's brother, CHAN, a large, genial youth of twenty, is working knee deep in the rice paddy, when he sees the stranger he is puzzled, but then offers a friendly smile.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

GRANDFATHER (V.O.)

He sought out your brother and told him that he, too, was training for The Tournament. The two decided to train together. Chan was very naive... he mistrusted no one.

REVERSE ANGLE

We now see that the stranger is Shang Tsung.

13A EXT. HILLTOP - ALTAR OF LIGHT

13A

Chan now stands facing Shang atop the hill.

GRANDFATHER (V.O.)

When I came back that evening, Chan had not returned. We found him on the crest of the hill, near the Altar of Light. It was strange. There were bruises... but It was more like... life had been sucked from him.

At that moment, the raven calls out loudly. END FLASHBACK.

14 EXT. VILLAGE - PRESENT

14

Liu looks to the hill, but it is deserted.

LIU

(haunted)

Grandfather.... it's my fault. I dreamed his death.

GRANDFATHER

(puts consoling hand on  
Liu's shoulder)

The dreamer does not cause the thing he dreams.

Liu puts his arm around the frail old man, and they walk toward the village.

14A INT. VILLAGE TEMPLE - LIU - DAY

14A

We now see that Liu, still in his American clothes and leather jacket, has been recounting his dream to a circle of priests and elders. The priests wear simple white robes. In the center of the circle is a large, bowl-like torch, its flame fed by sticks of wood. The Grandfather sits to one side. The CHIEF PRIEST has listened. He now turns his eyes on the Grandfather.

(CONTINUED)

14A CONTINUED:

14A

GRANDFATHER

Liu Kang has been given The Dream. He  
is the Chosen One.

SECOND PRIEST

(angry)

No! He left our village... turned his  
back on The Order of Light and its  
teachings!

GRANDFATHER

For many years he was the best student  
among you! He was a monk, like you!

SECOND PRIEST

Look at him! Look at the clothes he  
wears. He's no longer one of us! He's  
forgotten everything he learned!

CHIEF PRIEST

(to Liu)  
Is this true?

LIU

I remember everything. I tried to  
forget.... But you taught me too well.  
(then, humbly)

I want to represent The Order of Light  
at The Tournament.

CHIEF PRIEST

Why?

LIU

The man who killed my brother will be  
there. I know he will.

The Chief Priest is disappointed.

GRANDFATHER

That cannot be your only reason for  
going! Or you will fail! The  
Tournament is not a quest for vengeance.  
There is so much more at stake....

LIU

(angry; sarcastic)

Oh, yes, I forgot. We're fighting for  
the fate of the World!

(CONTINUED)

14A CONTINUED: 2

14A

CHIEF PRIEST

(shocked)

He mocks our sacred teachings? He can't fight in the Tournament. It's impossible.

The Grandfather approaches Liu and speaks solemnly.

GRANDFATHER

In your heart, you remember the teachings and know they are true.

LIU

I know you've poured fairy tales into my ears since I was a child! You want to know if I remember the teachings? All right.

(paces; agitated)

The teachings say that I am the direct descendent of Kung Lao. Five hundred years ago he returned from The Tournament victorious! But a generation later he was defeated by...

(eyes glow with derision)

...Goro, the four-armed monster!

(then, matter of fact)

Once a generation since that time a monk of this temple has been chosen to fight in The Tournament. And for five hundred years, they have lost.

Liu's eyes blaze as he walks around the circle, challenging the old men and the monks with his look.

LIU

The teachings say the last blood descendent of Kung Lao must be chosen. Listen to your own teachings. You must send me! I promise that I--

Suddenly, a voice like thunder booms into the temple, cutting Liu off.

RAYDEN

Promise nothing, you babbling idiot!

Everyone turns to find a large figure standing in the doorway: a coolie hat keeps his face in shadow. His clothing is in rags, his feet bare; he carries only a simple wooden staff. The imposing figure approaches.

(CONTINUED)

14A CONTINUED: 3

14A

RAYDEN

You reject all you've learned, but dare  
to come back here...spraying  
pronouncements around the sacred flame  
like donkey spit!  
(mocking tone)  
'I remember everything.'

Rayden moves face to face with the stunned Liu and raises his head, revealing his features at last: RAYDEN. Liu's Grandfather is the first to recognize him.

GRANDFATHER

(awe; fear)  
The Lord Rayden.

The others murmur in astonishment. As one, they throw themselves to the ground and prostrate themselves, still in a circle, around one of their principal gods. Liu is too astounded to react. He stares at the priests and elders, then back at the wizened face before him.

RAYDEN

You have forgotten everything of value.

Liu's Western experience takes over.

LIU

Grandfather. Get up! He's just a  
beggar.

CHIEF PRIEST

(bowing, reciting from  
Sacred Text)

Thus it is written. 'The god Rayden  
comes begging humbly, dressed in rags.  
Woe to him who turns away.'

The other monks wail and groan in unison, truly terrified. Liu is amazed.

LIU

Rayden? This isn't your god of thunder  
and lightning. You've scared yourselves  
stupid with the stories you tell your  
children!

GRANDFATHER

(desperate plea; prostrate)

Spare him, my lord Rayden. American  
life has enfeebled his mind. Too much  
television...! He will learn.

(CONTINUED)

14A CONTINUED: 4

14A

Rayden squints at Liu. Then he turns his back, and speaks with surprising gentleness.

RAYDEN

I doubt that very much, my friend.

Rayden helps the Grandfather to his feet. The others are in awe, now, of the Grandfather.

RAYDEN

His skull is as thick as these temple stones.

LIU

Leave my grandfather alone. Play your con game somewhere else.

A flash of anger illuminates Rayden's face. Then he turns to Liu.

RAYDEN

Spoken like a great champion and defender of his people. So, you're going to win The Tournament? Something you didn't even believe in, yesterday?

LIU

(surprised; recovers)  
Yes. I am.

Rayden nods, as if pondering this as he walks around the young man. Then, he lunges in with his staff. Liu parries the stroke, tries to counter, but Rayden moves the staff with lightning-like speed, and sweeps Liu's feet out from under him. The younger monks laugh. The elders look grave as Liu gingerly climbs to his feet.

RAYDEN

The last living descendent of the great Kung Lao. You are indeed the last of the last. Your brother at least had Kung Lao's heart, if not his skill.

LIU

If you are Rayden, why did you let Chan die? Why didn't you protect him!

The temple falls utterly silent. Rayden speaks simply.

RAYDEN

Why didn't you?

Liu is devastated. His face flushes with guilt.

(CONTINUED)

4A CONTINUED: 5

14A

LIU

I should have.

Rayden softens at this real show of sorrow and contrition.

RAYDEN

The gods do not control men's destiny...  
and they cannot protect you from it.  
I'm not your bodyguard.

Liu still thinks he's talking to an old fraud. He looks around the temple once more, and sees he has convinced no one.

LIU

I've had enough of this. I'm going to  
find my brother's killer at The  
Tournament... with or without your  
consent!

Liu stalks out of the temple. The Grandfather speaks quietly to Rayden.

GRANDFATHER

He isn't ready. And we've lost so much  
time.

RAYDEN

I know. But there is no one else.

Rayden begins to walk out of the temple, then he turns and speaks to all of them.

RAYDEN

You shouldn't have tried to replace him  
with his brother. Whether any of you  
like it or not... he is The Chosen One.

And, with a weary, regal tread, the beggar-like figure leaves the temple, leaving the men inside with their guilt.

SCENES 15-16 OMITTED

17 EXT. VILLAGE - SUNDOWN

17

The old bush taxi once more waits outside the village. Liu says goodbye to his Grandfather. In the distance, all the monks are on the crest of the hill, lighting an enormous bonfire, which sputters, catches, then towers high into the darkening sky and reflects off their white robes. Other villagers stand at a respectful distance from Liu and the old man, watching them silently.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

GRANDFATHER

We light the beacon fire from the Sacred Temple flame... lit once a generation at the time of the Tournament. Keep it here...

(he touches Liu's chest)  
It will light the way home.

Liu sees that the old man is frightened for him.

LIU

I remember the first time you rode me to the top of the hill on your shoulders. I thought I could see the whole world from up there....

(gently)  
I'll come back.

GRANDFATHER

(choking up)  
Chan didn't.

LIU

I'm not Chan. I'll come back,  
Grandfather.

Liu nods, moved with affection for the old man. The two men hug, then Liu gets in the battered vehicle, which drives off down the winding dirt road.

GRANDFATHER

(alone)  
Rayden, give him wisdom. Watch over him.

The old man fights back his tears. Out beyond the village, heat lightning dances for a second in the sky, followed by a distant rumble. Grandfather nods with a small smile and turns, along with every villager, to gaze up at the magnificent beacon of fire - brighter than the setting sun - on the hilltop overlooking the temple.

18 EXT. PIER - HONG KONG - NIGHT

18.

A dark, ragged-looking "junk" is moored at the pier, its mast tops half in shadow. Men walk up the gang plank and go aboard, staring at the strange craft in disbelief. Men and women from many different walks of life congregate on the dock. Others already go on board. A black limousine pulls up and stops. The rear window slides down and Johnny Cage gawks at the vessel. Nancy sits beside him

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

JOHNNY

This can't be right.  
(to driver)  
I said Pier forty.

DRIVER

This Pier forty.

NANCY

(amused)  
I figured you for more of a Love Boat  
kind of guy, Johnny. I'm impressed.

JOHNNY

You can be replaced, you know.

OUTSIDE THE LIMO

Johnny climbs out. She joins him. Neither takes this threat seriously.

NANCY

Don't be a grouch. I'm the one who  
should be upset. My star client is  
disappearing to some mysterious island  
for a secret tournament.

(looks around, aghast)  
Who are these people?

JOHNNY

The best fighters in the world.

The menagerie of fighters is growing more bizarre by the moment.

NANCY

If you say so. Johnny, you don't need  
to prove anything. You're a star.

A gaggle of young teenage boys spot Johnny. They rush toward him,  
waving pens and autograph books, taking pictures and shouting  
Johnny's name.

JOHNNY

What's this?

As they swarm around their hero, Johnny begins signing autographs.

NANCY

The local fan club.

JOHNNY

You organized this? I told you I was  
travelling incognito.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 2

18

NANCY

Oh, and I was supposed to believe you?

ART LEAN, a well built Black man, easily shoulders a large duffel bag. He stops to watch the fans swarming around Johnny. He looks up when Art Lean - the only adult - hands him a piece of paper.

ART LEAN

It's for my nephew, Damien. He's a big fan.

JOHNNY

Sure.

(studies Lean)

You're Art Lean! I saw you fight in London. You were great.

ART LEAN

Thanks. I've seen a couple of your films. You can't fake those moves....

JOHNNY

Tell that to the press.

Johnny signs and hands the autograph back. Art Lean grins, slaps Johnny on the arm and goes up the gang plank. The driver has unloaded the last bag and slams the trunk, looking a little disgusted. Nancy is worried in spite of her jokes as she eyes the decrepit wooden ship. She is paying several Asian dock hands to carry Johnny's bags up the gang plank. They shoulder the big Gucci suitcases, and head onto the boat.

NANCY

They'll take your bags on board. I already paid them. Last chance to change your mind.

JOHNNY

No. I'll be back in a week.

NANCY

I tried. Take care of yourself, Johnny.

She gives him a little kiss on the cheek and gets back into the limo. The Driver is already behind the wheel.

NANCY

Driver, take me to the nearest bar. One with lots of sailors.

Johnny smiles at her last joke as the limo drives away. But now he feels alone and friendless.

NEW ANGLE

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 3

18

Liu Kang has just left his battered taxi and pays the driver. The taxi drives off. Liu stands next to one of Johnny's suitcases, wearing more traditional Chinese shirt and slacks, now. He looks up at the junk. Johnny turns, sees him, and mistakes him for one of the dock hands.

JOHNNY

You missed one?

LIU

One what?

JOHNNY

The suitcase. Don't get cute. You've already been paid.

LIU

(glares; then; slyly)

Oh? The suitcase? Very nice.

(fake coolie accent)

Oh, shuah thing, Mistah! Chop chop!

And with a demonic grin, Liu takes the suitcase and shuffles with gleeful exaggeration up the gangplank. Half way up, he turns, loses the grin, and throws the heavy suitcase into the black water. It floats away. He turns to Johnny, astounded, back on the dock.

LIU

(mocking)

So solly!

And he turns and walks onto the boat.

JOHNNY

Hey! Heyyy!

Johnny hustles after him.

NEW ANGLE - VAN

The same unmarked commando van is parked just off the pier.

SCENE 19 OMITTED

20 INT. VAN

20

Jaxx sits behind the wheel, Sonya next to him, peering through night vision binoculars. Two team members ride in the back, weapons ready.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

JAXX

Nothing says he's getting on this boat.  
He could be miles from the waterfront,  
by now.

SONYA

I know Kano. He's in his element  
here... with the other wharf rats.

SCENE 21 OMITTED

22 EXT. PIER - JUNK - NIGHT

22

The gang plank is taken up, and the mooring lines are cast off.

THROUGH NIGHT VISION BINOCULARS

Sonya scans the deck, holding briefly on several passengers.

JAXX (O.S.)

Well, even if you're right, he just  
missed the boat.

Then she spots him. A silhouette at first, but then Kano steps  
into the dim light, and the night vision glasses enhance Sonya's  
view of him. Almost as if he knows she is watching, he grins  
crookedly, and steps back into the shadows.

SONYA (O.S.)

He's already on board!

THE VAN

door springs open and Sonya leaps out. Jaxx steps from the cab as  
well.

JAXX

Hold on. We don't have a warrant to go  
on board.

SONYA

Paperwork was never my strong suit.

JAXX

I know, I do it all.

Sonya fastens her web belt, and begins running toward the mooring  
line, just as two dock hands cast off. She grabs the line, and  
swings over to the hull of the junk.

3 EXT. JUNK - DECK - NIGHT

23

Johnny Cage spots Liu Kang, unrolling a mat on deck and storms over to him.

JOHNNY

Hey, you!

Kano has been watching Sonya.

KANO

Come on, baby. Come to papa.

Kano turns and hurries into the central hold. Johnny confronts Liu Kang. He spins him around.

JOHNNY

Hey, I want to--

Just then, Sonya swings like a pirate onto the deck and crashes into Johnny, sending him flying. She tucks, rolls, and jumps to her feet, her eyes sweeping the vessel for Kano. Johnny jumps to his feet and spins her around.

JOHNNY

You want to play rough, asshole?

He sees two things simultaneously, her pretty face... and the nine millimeter pistol she points at his chin.

SONYA

No. Do you?

JOHNNY

(movie star charm)

Oh. I mean... I'm Johnny Cage. And you are...?

SONYA

Where did he go?

JOHNNY

(deflated)

Who?

Sonya looks around, heads for the hatchway and climb down the ladder. Liu Kang has seen it all.

LIU

Just another star struck fan....

SCENE 24 OMITTED

5 INT. JUNK - BELOW DECKS - NIGHT

25

The wooden ship creaks and objects sway as Sonya makes her way through the bowels of the ship. She sees a door at the end of the passageway and makes for it. A burly brute, the junk's CAPTAIN, suddenly steps in her way.

CAPTAIN  
Looking for some company?

SONYA  
What's on the other side of that door?

CAPTAIN  
Private quarters. No admittance. But I can give you a special tour of my cabin.

SONYA  
(shows her identification)  
I'm looking for a murderer. He boarded this ship.

CAPTAIN  
I'm the Captain. You got no authority on my ship.

Johnny comes up behind Sonya and overhears. Liu is just behind him.

JOHNNY  
Be nice to the lady. She's just doing her job.

SONYA  
(annoyed)  
When I want backup, I'll radio for it, okay?

Just then, two Ninja-clad figures step from the shadows behind her. One is SUB-ZERO, the other is SCORPION.

JOHNNY  
(to Sonya)  
You got that radio handy?

She turns to see the two odd figures. Johnny faces off against Scorpion.

LIU  
Trick or treat.

Sub Zero steps in front of the door, blocking it.

SONYA  
Move aside.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

Nothing. She draws her sidearm.

SONYA

Stand aside!

Sub Zero looks down at the weapon, then his hand darts out, incredibly fast, touching the gun and freezing it to icy brittleness. Sonya stares at it.

THE GUN

Sub Zero's hand snaps off the barrel.

WIDER

In the blink of an eye, a brawl develops. Liu moves in and the Captain takes him on. Liu evades the charge and counters, driving him against the bulkhead. Meanwhile, Johnny fights Scorpion, and he uses a jiu-jitsu move to get the Ninja in a wrist lock. The glove rips away, however, revealing a giant pincer claw! Johnny shouts and leaps back just as the second pincer-claw rips through Scorpion's other glove and tries for Johnny's throat. The Captain comes back at Liu with a boot knife forcing him back. Sonya throws several powerful kicks at Sub-Zero to no apparent effect. He moves toward her and raises a strange, blue-tinged hand, when...

AN ENORMOUS BLUE BALL

of energy streaks down the passageway, knocking the two attackers aside like bowling pins, causing them to glow in the dark for a moment, while miraculously leaving Sonya, Johnny and Liu unharmed. The two strange beings disappear into the bowels of the ship. The Captain lies groaning on the deck. The Blue Ball streaks back down the passageway, brushing past Sonya, Johnny and Liu and leaving them crackling with residual electricity which plays over their clothing. Every metallic object below decks crackles with this charge, as well. They see the blue ball turn into Rayden, now standing at the far end of the passageway, leaning on his staff like any ordinary man... except that his eyes are glowing brightly! A moment later, they return to normal as well.

RAYDEN

Enough!

LIU

You!

RAYDEN

(ignores him; thunder voice)

Shang Tsung!

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 2

25

The preternaturally loud voice nearly deafens the three humans. The oaken door swings open, and Shang Tsung steps calmly through it. Liu stares, struggling to remember where he's seen him before.

SHANG

Lord Rayden. How good of you to grace us with your presence.

RAYDEN

Your sideshow freaks attacked my fighters. That is expressly forbidden before the Tournament, as the Emperor well knows.

Sonya, Johnny and Liu huddle together to one side and listen.

SHANG

(to Rayden)  
My apologies. It won't happen again.

RAYDEN

I shall see to that.

SHANG

Of course.... Until we reach the island. Where you have no dominion.

RAYDEN

My dominions are well known to me, Sorcerer.

Shang turns to go back inside. Sonya grabs his wrist. Shang bristles, then looks into Sonya's pretty face. He softens.

SONYA

What tournament?

SHANG

(simply; as if to a child)  
You have been chosen, Sonya.

And he goes back through the door, closing it firmly. Rayden turns and starts back down the passageway.

LIU

You really are... him!

With a pained look of annoyance, Rayden turns his attention back to them.

RAYDEN

(thunder voice)  
Come with me!

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 3

25

Rayden is enveloped in a blue ball of electricity and vanishes. Johnny cautiously waves his hand over the space Rayden had just occupied.

JOHNNY  
(muttering to himself)  
Easy for him to say.

26 INT. SHANG'S QUARTERS - JUNK - NIGHT

26

The quarters take up the entire stern of the boat below decks, luxuriously appointed with Chinese silk screens and elegant ebony furnishings. Shang waits calmly as the Captain slinks in. Kano sits on a chair, legs dangling over the arms, peeling a fruit with a knife, and grinning at the Captain's terror.

CAPTAIN  
Yes, sir?

SHANG  
Is it so difficult, Captain, to keep me from being disturbed in my own quarters.

CAPTAIN  
But, but... There were three of them.

SHANG  
I'm impressed. You can count to three. I was humiliated just now... forced to apologize to a Being I detest. Do you know how much I loathe apologizing, Captain?

CAPTAIN  
I'm sorry, sir. It won't ever happen again.

Kano loses interest in the fruit and stares.

SHANG  
I believe you.

The Captain transforms into a rat! Then Shang blinks. We hear the strange clamoring of many voices in anguish, chantlike, atonal... yet strangely musical.

WIDER

Shang transforms into a large cobra, coiling and rising until the hooded head brushes along the bulkhead, moving toward the rat/Captain, who squeals and cowers in a corner, his own rodent eyes transfixed by the hypnotic gaze of the serpent/sorcerer. The cobra hovers over the rat another long moment, then lunges...

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

KANO

swallows the bite of fruit in his mouth as he watches in horrified fascination. The squeals of the rat are now muffled... then silent.

WIDER

Shang once more stands before him in his normal shape. Only his eyes are still those of the snake's, yellow and menacing. He fixes Kano with that same hypnotic stare, freezing him in his tracks. Then Shang blinks, and the eyes are once again normal. The strange chorus of voices ceases.

SHANG

Any questions?

Kano can't think of any.

27 EXT. DECK - NIGHT

27

Johnny, Sonya and Liu come up on deck confused.

SONYA

How did he disappear like that? Who is he?

JOHNNY

Let's just... think this through.  
There's a rational explanation for this.

LIU

He is Rayden. God of Lightning, and  
Protector of the Realm of Earth.  
Although I didn't believe it until this  
minute.

JOHNNY

(ironic)  
See, I told you there was a rational  
explanation.

They are now in the bow of the ship away from the others. Rayden appears right behind Johnny, who senses him there without turning, and winces.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

RAYDEN

(thunder voice)

Listen!

(they cringe; he softens  
his tone)

The time for doubt... is past! The  
time for your petty quarrels... is past.  
What you are about to face is vastly  
more important than...

(to Johnny)

...your ego!

(to Sonya)

... your enemy!

(to Liu; quieter)

...or your quest for revenge. You are  
embarked on a sacred mission. You have  
been chosen to defend the Realm of Earth  
in a Tournament called Mortal Kombat!

SONYA

Defend it from who?

RAYDEN

Your 'world' is but one of many parallel  
realms. One of them is a forsaken land  
called Outworld, ruled by an Immortal  
who has crowned himself emperor. Now he  
seeks new worlds to conquer and enslave.

JOHNNY

If he's so powerful, why doesn't he just  
invade us?

RAYDEN

To enter the Realm of Earth, the  
Emperor's demon Sorcerer, Shang Tsung  
and his warriors must win ten straight  
victories in Mortal Kombat... against  
ten generations of Earth's best  
fighters. They have won nine. This  
will be the tenth Tournament.

SONYA

A handful of people on a leaky boat are  
going to save the world?

RAYDEN

That is the point... the essence of  
Mortal Kombat. It isn't about death...  
but about mortal men and women... rising  
to your greatest potential and defending  
your world.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: 2

27

SONYA

Why are you telling us all this? What about the others?

RAYDEN

They are all superb fighters... but I have looked into their souls... and yours. You three will decide the outcome of The Tournament. The fate of billions of people will depend upon you.

JOHNNY

I'm glad there's no pressure, here.

RAYDEN

I've given you much to consider. You must prepare yourselves for what is to come.

LIU

My ancestor defeated a great sorcerer, five centuries ago. In a dream, I saw the sorcerer return to kill my brother! (quietly; containing his rage) Tonight... I saw him again.

RAYDEN

He is Shang Tsung, second only to the Emperor in power and ferocity. If you challenge him now... you will lose your life and your soul. And the Realm of Earth will be lost with you.

Rayden disappears in a blue ball of light... but his voice remains as a strange fog begins to pour in over the bow.

LIU

He's going to pay for my brother's death.

RAYDEN (O.S.)

You are not ready!

OFF THE BOW

a huge fog bank begins to engulf the ship.

RAYDEN (O.S.)

(ethereal near whisper)  
It's begun.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: 3

27

Sonya, Liu and Johnny stand staring at the approaching wall of fog as it rolls over the junk.

IN THE RAISED STERN

The sorcerer, Shang Tsung prowls, near the helmsman. He stops and raises his arms to the enveloping mist, exalting.

SHANG

It has begun!

ON DECK

28 EXT. BAY - NEAR ISLAND - DAYBREAK

28

Morning finds the junk anchored off a beautiful yet forbidding island, whose cliffs rise up into the mist and clouds, thousands of feet above the masts. A cleft in the cliff face is carved with a stone stairway, which winds up the fissure into the mist. On a promontory above the clouds, the ruins of an ancient temple built into the mountain gleam in the first rays of the sun.

SCENE 29 OMITTED

30 EXT. BEACH - ISLAND - DAY

30

The junk rides at anchor in the distance. A half dozen long boats transport the remaining combatants to shore. Johnny sits pensively on his four pieces of luggage. Liu stands nearby, studying the stone staircase. Next to him, Sonya tries to raise someone on her uplink phone, a small contraption with a circular antenna.

SONYA

Black Hawk to Cardinal. Black Hawk calling Cardinal. Is anyone monitoring? Jaxx, this is Sonya? Do you copy?

JOHNNY

Order in some coffee while you're at it.

SONYA

Do I look like your secretary?

JOHNNY

It was just.... Forget it.

SONYA

What's the matter? No snappy comeback without a script?

(fidgets with antenna)

Come on.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

LIU

What are you doing?

SONYA

That electrical disturbance last night  
must have blown out the transistors.

LIU

Your radio equipment's fine. Look at  
your compass.

Johnny is as curious as Sonya, who opens her wrist compass.

THE COMPASS NEEDLE

spins wildly, not fixing on any direction.

WIDER

Johnny and Sonya exchange a glance,

SONYA

Where the hell are we?

JOHNNY

What am I, your travel agent?

Sonya leaves in disgust. Liu peers around them:

JOHNNY

What's up with you?

LIU

(shakes head; smiles)  
What if... all the legends were true?

A mute MONK in a black robe, acting as a sort of Beach Master for the landing, walks along the shore with a scroll, checking off names. Sonya falls in next to him, Liu and Johnny observing.

SONYA

Can you tell me if there's a phone on  
the island? A police station? Navy  
base?

JOHNNY

Club Med?

He won't acknowledge them.

SONYA

I'm Lieutenant Blade, on special  
assignment with--

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 2

30

He stops, finds her name, checks it off. She sees.

SONYA

Wait a minute? What's my name doing on that list? Hey, you!

She grabs the Monk's arm. The cowl partially falls away, revealing that the monk's lips have been sealed with old rawhide stitches, now overgrown with scar tissue. Amazed, she and the others follow him with their eyes as he continues down the beach.

JOHNNY

His lips are sealed.

\*

Johnny contemplates his remaining four bags, piled at his feet, then looks up at the steep, winding staircase. Many of the others have already begun the climb, appearing smaller and smaller until they disappear into the low clouds.

LIU

(heading for stairs)  
Gonna hire someone to carry those up for you?

Johnny actually brightens for a beat, then realizes it's a joke. Grimly, he gathers up his four bags.

31 EXT. TOP OF STAIRS - DAY

31

Johnny arrives sweating from head to toe at the top of the stairs with only one small bag. Liu walks beside him. The stairs end at

A STATUARY GARDEN

which has several dozen statues of ancient warriors... some of them distinctly non-human. Sonya is stationed at the top of the stairs, looking like she could still run a four minute mile. The two men exchange a glance. She falls in with them and they walk among the statues.

JOHNNY

(refers to statues)  
So, who are all these guys?

LIU

In the legends they are the great and ancient warriors of all Mortal Kombats.

The others absorb this, almost in shock.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

SONYA

(shakes it off)  
I'm here nodding like any of this makes  
sense.

A SILK-SHROUDED PALANQUIN

carried by dark monks across the garden. The curtain sways open for a second, revealing an exotic woman of startling beauty, KITANA. As the palanquin comes abreast of Liu, Sonya and Johnny, she looks straight into Liu's eyes, until it is carried toward the Great Hall on the other side of the garden. Liu's gaze continues following the palanquin.

JOHNNY

When a woman looks at you like that, it  
usually means something.

SONYA

(muttering)  
It means she's a bimbo.

Johnny nods to a statue as they pass. It is humanoid, but has a gargoyle's head, it's features worn smooth with great antiquity.

JOHNNY

Check this one out.

LIU

(wryly)  
Old Chinese proverb. Never fight with  
an ugly man. They've got nothing to  
lose.

This gets a smile from Johnny as the three continue on. Shang appears from behind a nearby pedestal and walks under the shadow of the Gargoyle statue. He speaks quietly, as if addressing some invisible presence nearby as he nods toward the palanquin.

SHANG

Princess Kitana, the Emperor's ward.  
Perhaps our Beloved Master has sent her  
here to observe the Tournament, but  
nevertheless, I don't trust her....

(then; decisive)  
Watch her carefully. Keep her away from  
the others.

Contented with that thought, Shang glances up at the statue overhead, then turns and walks majestically toward the Great Hall.

THE GARGOYLE STATUE

suddenly opens its grey eyelids, revealing pale green eyes. The creature, REPTILE, the chameleon, looks at Shang Tsung a moment, scowling, then runs off after the palanquin.

Q A EXT. -SUNSET 31A \*

Hear sound of ceremonial drums building. \*

31B 31B  
THRU OMITTED THRU  
31D 31D

32 32  
THRU OMITTED THRU  
36 36

37 INT. GREAT HALL - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT 37

Hear sound continuing of ceremonial drums.

At a welcoming banquet in a long tracking shot we follow Liu, Sonya and Johnny through the great diversity of the competitors in The Tournament, whose icon (i.e. the Mortal Kombat logo) hangs on banners from balconies. The decor is largely ancient Chinese. The human contingent is a study in contrasts and cultures from around the world.

KITANA

sits at the dais, where she is served like royalty by cowled Outworld monks. Liu hesitates as he passes her table. She lets her gaze linger on him as she did earlier.

NEW ANGLE

A LONG TABLE

Liu rejoins Sonya and Johnny, who straddles a bench across from Art Lean.

ART LEAN

Haven't seen the competition yet? Have any of you?

Liu exchanges a glance with Johnny and Sonya.

LIU

(ironic)

Nothing to worry about.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A frenzied thudding of oriental drums silences the hall. As if on cue fifty denizens of Outworld march in and give a terrifying demonstration of agility and power.

AT LONG TABLE

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

Art Lean stares, glances at his new friends, then swallows.

ART LEAN

Hell of a show.

SHANG TSUNG

appears amidst great pomp and ceremony, preceded by a cortege of black cowled monks. He steps onto a dais. He is dressed in his most elegantly embroidered silk. His eyes sweep the hall. The denizens of Outworld practically shrink from him, their heads lowered, cowed. His appearance commands silence in the hall.

SHANG

Welcome! You are here to compete in Mortal Kombat, the greatest of all tournaments. You should be proud! Each one of you has been chosen for your excellence, your skill, and your courage! You are the best fighters of your generation, worthy to represent the Realm of Earth... and the Realm of Outworld!

The human contingent mutter among themselves, a little baffled.

38 INTERCUT LIU AND RAYDEN

38

Liu spies the humbly garbed figure of Rayden standing aloof from the others. Rayden instantly senses the gaze and turns to meet Liu's eyes.

SHANG

Tomorrow morning, the great combat begins. The opponents to be chosen by lots... The winner of each combat will progress to the next.... Until only one remains!

(wicked gleam in his eye)  
Some will even have the privilege of fighting Prince Goro, the reigning champion.

(chilling smile; to human contingent)

You are all witnesses to one of the great turning points in the history of the World!

(slyly ironic)  
Treasure these moments... as if they were your last.

Shang points to Sub-Zero and then to a baraka. Once more the drums roll, echoing through the hall.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

NEW ANGLE

A large humanoid outworld soldier, the BARAKA, with strange exoskeleton armor, wearing a helmet of bone which hides all of his features except for his eyes, strides forward like a self-important storm trooper, jostling all out of his way. He faces off against the Outworld ninja, Sub Zero. The baraka howls and swings a dragon lance above his head in a terrifying display of flashing steel. The baraka cuts the air several times, demonstrating its prowess. Sub-Zero quietly prepares himself as if meditating - a blue-like glow runs between his hands. With a savage growl, the Baraka leaps high into the air, straight at the Outworld ninja. In SLOW MOTION we see Sub Zero exude a frigid blast of air from his fingertips. The pouncing Baraka passes through the frigid blast, and freezes solid in midair. Sub Zero shifts slightly to let the hurtling popsicle streak past. The Baraka shatters into a hundred pieces when it strikes a nearby pillar. Some of the pieces spill onto the table in front of Art Lean and our heroes.

SHANG

Flawless victory.

Shang Tsung steps from the dais.

JOHNNY

"Come to a little tournament," he says,  
"be good for the career," he says...

NEW ANGLE

Liu is deeply troubled. He starts after Shang. Johnny and Sonya see, rise and go after him.

JOHNNY

Where are you going?

LIU

After Shang.

JOHNNY

You can't. Remember what Rayden said.

Frustrated, Liu hesitates. But Sonya continues past them.

SONYA

He didn't say anything to me. Shang knows where Kano's hiding.

She spots the departing Shang Tsung, and heads after him.

JOHNNY

You gotta admire her. When she sets her mind on something....

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 2

38

Both men watch her go after Shang Tsung. They exchange a silent look, and slowly follow after her.

A RAISED, STONE LATTICEWORK WALL

is set about ten feet off the ground, unnoticed by most in the hall. But a huge shadow stands on the other side of it, peering out.

BEHIND THE LATTICEWORK WALL

The figure, back to us in a long silk cloak, reveals only massive shoulders and long black hair, which fans out over the cloak to waist level. This is GORO. Golden earrings gleam in the torchlight as he watches through the latticework

THROUGH LATTICEWORK - JOHNNY AND LIU

who walk just below him and out of the hall. A low murmur, nearly a growl, comes from Goro's throat. He turns and leaves frame. \*

39 EXT. STATUARY GARDEN - NIGHT

39

Shang Tsung leaves the Great Hall unescorted and makes his way across the garden, when he is accosted by Sonya.

SONYA

I want to talk to you.

Suddenly, two shadows loom, the ninjas Sub Zero and Scorpion. Sonya wheels to face them, but Shang waves them off.

SHANG

Sub-Zero, Scorpion. Leave us. \*

Like bass sinking back into deep water, they recede into the night. Shaken, Sonya turns back to Shang, more conciliatory in tone.

SONYA

Do they always follow you around?

SHANG

That is one of their functions.

SONYA

Ugly job.

SHANG

(ignores the insult)  
Yes, especially since they hate each other.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

SONYA

Why am I here?

SHANG

I already told you. You had to come.

SONYA

You shanghai'd me!

SHANG

You boarded the boat of your own free will.

SONYA

I was chasing someone.

SHANG

Kano, the man who murdered your partner.

SONYA

How could you know that? Unless you're hiding him.

SHANG

Catching him is the most important thing in your life. The only thing.

SONYA

Where is he?

SHANG

Oh, he's here... and you will meet him. In fact, you are going to fight him... provided you survive the preliminary bouts.

SONYA

I didn't come here to fight in The Tournament.

SHANG

Then you'll never meet Kano face to face.

(almost sensuous)

Tell me you haven't dreamed of killing him.

(unctuous)

I know I'm not supposed to play favorites, but I sincerely hope you win.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: 2

39

The attraction that Shang seems to feel for Sonya gives her the creeps. Shang smiles, and starts off again across the moonlit statuary garden. Johnny and Liu step from hiding. They are close enough to have heard everything.

SONYA

What are you doing here?

JOHNNY

Watching your back.

SONYA

In case you haven't noticed, I don't need protection.

JOHNNY

We couldn't help ourselves.

Liu, meanwhile, starts after Shang, who has crossed the garden and disappears as they watch.

SONYA

Where are you going?

LIU

I'm following him.

SONYA

I work alone.

LIU

(coldly)  
Shang... is mine.

Liu silently moves through the garden. Exasperated, Sonya follows.

40 EXT. ORNATE TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

40

Shang disappears through the portal. Moments later, Liu, Sonya and Johnny appear. Liu starts to move forward. Sonya grabs his shoulder.

SONYA

You can't just follow him in. It's bad tactics.

(A) OMITTED

40A

JOHNNY

She's right. In all those old movies on TV, whenever the good guys went into a dark cave, bad things happened.

LIU

We didn't have television in my village.

JOHNNY

No television? What did everybody do at night? You know... For fun?

LIU

Human sacrifice.

Liu enters the cave. Johnny grabs a torch and reluctantly brings up the rear.

41 INT. CAVERNS - NIGHT (MATTE PAINTING)

41

Johnny carries the torch, dimly illuminating the three faces. The camera pulls back to reveal the figures lost in a vast underground labyrinth.

SONYA

(whispers)  
Face it, we're lost.

JOHNNY

I prefer 'directionally challenged.'

The torch begins to sputter.

SONYA

Is there something wrong with the torch?

JOHNNY

No. The torch is fine.

SONYA

That torch is going to go out.

JOHNNY

It is not going to go out.

SONYA

Do you want me to carry the torch?

JOHNNY

No, I do not want you to carry the torch. The torch is fine.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

The torch goes out.

CUT TO BLACK

INT. TUNNELS

Johnny strikes a match.

SONYA

You were saying?

The match burns Johnny's fingers and he drops it. In the distance there is a light.

LIU

There's a light down there.

(hears something)

Listen.

There is the rumble of male voices coming from somewhere. They creep towards the light source. The enlarged shadows of stalactites and stalagmites are projected onto one wall. Suddenly, Liu puts up an arm and stops both of them. They all look where he is staring, and their eyes register his amazement. Just for a brief moment we see the shadow of a huge figure with four arms. Johnny tries to combat his own fear... whistling in the graveyard.

JOHNNY

(whisper)

I don't suppose there's a little guy down there, doing... shadow puppets?

LIU

Come on.

42 INT. GORO'S THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

42

Sonya, Liu, and Johnny creep onto a concealed ledge at the back of the throne room. Hidden behind large stalactites, they can now see down into the "throne room".

The natural subterranean chamber is studded with stalactites and stalagmites, and illuminated by the flames from a dozen torches. Gold and silver ornaments and tableware gleam in their flickering light on a polished ebony table with high-backed chairs. In one corner sits a chained pet Jaguar. Goro sits, draped in his cape, one arm holding a jewel encrusted mirror, while "the" other hand rather daintily holds a metal file, which he uses to sharpen points on several of his teeth.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

Four Barakas, Goro's retainers, stand nearby. Across from him, at a table laden with food, Kano eats his fill, speaking with his mouth full, but nervously eyeing the giant across from him. A monk carries a tray full of food.

KANO

Hey, give me some of that.  
(he grabs some food from  
the tray)

So then, he changes into this big snake  
and swallows the rat whole. Almost lost  
my lunch.

GORO

(mock horror)  
Disgusting.

Kano misses the irony; and belches.

KANO

Guy gives me the creeps.

ON THE LEDGE

Sonya recognizes the human below her.

SONYA

(murmurs)  
Kano....

Almost unconsciously, she starts to rise. Liu and Johnny, on either side of her, reach out simultaneously and pull her back down.

THRONE ROOM

Goro examines his teeth with the gold hand mirror.

GORO

That was his intention. Shang Tsung is a great sorcerer. The wise cultivate his favor. Those who challenge his power... become his slaves.

KANO

Haven't seen any of them around.

GORO

He enslaves souls...

(uneasy at the thought)  
He learned the black crafts from the Emperor himself.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: 2

42

KANO

You're some kinda royalty, too, right?

GORO

(ironic)

That's very perceptive of you.

Goro stands, wearing only a simple loin covering, a wide jeweled belt, and gold armlets, revealing his massive height and four arms.

GORO

I am Goro, general of the armies of Outworld and Prince of the subterranean realm of Shokan.

KANO

Subterranean? That's like... underground?

GORO

(condescending)

Yes, like that.

KANO

Yeah, well I'm kind of an underworld chief myself. You know, back home.

GORO

How lucky for them..."back home."

Shang's voice burst in on them, startling the four Barakas, who never heard him coming. They fall back, bowing low.

SHANG

It's true, Prince Goro. Why else would I chose such a disreputable-looking cretin?

SHANG

stands at the foot of the stairway, haughty, amused. The Barakas grovel at his feet and inch away from the sorcerer.

SHANG

Look at him. No dignity. No manners. But in the realm of Earth, men like him can amass wealth and almost godlike power.

Goro bows formally to Shang. Shang nods back.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: 3

42

KANO

(nervous; miffed)

Yeah, well, I'd like to get back to my  
amassing as soon as possible. When do  
I get paid?

SHANG

After you've fought the girl. That was  
our "deal." Only remember, she mustn't  
be harmed... only humiliated. I  
have...plans... for the beautiful Sonya.

KANO

Well, let me at her, then. Think I like  
hiding down here in a cave like some  
kinda slimy toad?

He suddenly realizes that Goro might take this the wrong way.  
Goro plants two big three fingered hands of his two upper arms on  
the table, leans down until his huge head is on a level with  
Kano's.

KANO

(nervous)

No offense intended.

Kano smiles nervously as a lower massive arm and a huge hand with  
a gold wrist ornament reaches out toward Kano, the palm  
outstretched a foot from Kano's throat.

GORO

(quietly menacing; over  
polite)

None taken.

And Goro lightly--almost playfully--slaps Kano on the face, like  
Marlon Brando conveying some subtle sense of immense power to a  
foot soldier in the Mafia. Kano manages a weak smile. Shang is  
amused. Goro's remaining lower arm picks a piece of food off  
Kano's plate and rising up, he tosses the food to his pet jaguar.  
Goro snaps his fingers.

GORO

Where is my dinner?

Instantly, two more Barakas hurry into the "throne room, bearing a  
large, silver platter with a domed cover between them. Goro  
impatiently arches an eyebrow, waiting to be served.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED: 4

42

A MOTH

flits around a candle in Goro's line of vision. Almost unthinkingly, his hand shoots out with tremendous speed and snatches the insect out of the air. Kano recoils, thinking Goro is about to strike him. Goro opens his hand under Kano's nose, revealing the moth, still alive. Kano breathes a sigh of relief. Then Goro crushes the moth.

WIDER

One of the Barakas cautiously approaches the huge silver cover, grasps the handle and hoists it off while the other points his spear at it. Underneath the dome is a large creature - half kimodo dragon, half gila monster in appearance - who snaps at the retreating Baraka and whips him with his spiked tail. The Baraka retreats into a corner. Goro leans over to examine his meal, eyes gleaming.

GORO

One of my favorites. Anyone care to join me?

KANO

(astounded)  
Thanks.... I'll pass.

The lizard-dragon springs tries to scurry from the silver platter, but Goro literally pounces on it! His pointed teeth gleam as he prepares for the first bite as the lizard writhes and howls strangely.

ON THE LEDGE

Johnny, Liu and Sonya watch in horror and astonishment.

SHANG AND KANO

Even Shang can't help register some disgust at the spectacle. A large drop of the black ooze squirts across Kano's plate. He wipes it away and sees what it is, appalled.

GORO

finishes his meal, licks his fingers. He dips his fingers in an ornate fingerbowl filled with water and rose petals. He then picks up a napkin and daintily dabs at his chin.

GORO

Delicious  
(to Shang; arrogant)  
To what do we owe the honor of your visit, Shang Tsung?

13  
THRU OMITTED  
44

43  
THRU  
44

SHANG

I came to warn you that Kung Lao's  
descendent is competing in the  
Tournament. You must handle him  
carefully.

GORO

I saw this Lui Kang in the hall. He  
reminds me of his ancestor. He'll pose  
no problem.

SHANG

Don't underestimate the power and  
resourcefulness of these...humans! It  
will be your downfall.

GORO

You lost to Kung Lao, a village monk!  
I defeated him...

(arrogance growing)

And every human since.. for the last  
five hundred years. This time will be  
no different.

Shang is chagrined. He glowers, then controls his emotions.

SHANG

This is no time for foolish pride. We  
have never been so close to absolute  
victory. We cannot allow these humans  
or even the meddling Princess Kitana to  
stand in our way. The Emperor will not  
tolerate failure...and neither will I.

44A  
THRU OMITTED  
47

44A  
THRU  
47

GORO

I do not fail.

48 CLOSEUP - JAGUAR'S HEAD

48

The jaguar senses something and turns his head. The jaguar  
roars.

9 INT. GORO'S THRONE ROOM - LEDGE

49

Johnny, Liu and Sonya have heard this conversation. Liu points  
to the jaguar. They edge from the ledge as silently as they can.

0 INT. GORO'S THRONE ROOM 50

The jaguar roars again. Shang and Goro become alert. Kano looks up, wondering.

KANO

What is it?

SHANG

We aren't alone.

Goro raises a hand. The Baraka bodyguards move quietly towards the ledge.

51 INT. GORO'S THRONE ROOM - LEDGE 51

Liu and the others are already on the run.

52 INT. GORO'S THRONE ROOM - LEDGE 52

The Barakas search the ledge out thoroughly, and continue into the tunnels.

53 INT. TUNNELS 53

Liu, Johnny, and Sonya enter a chamber with three possible exits. At a distance down one of the passageways, Kitana stands, holding a torch. Liu sees her. Kitana turns and hurries away.

LIU

(to others)

She must be the Princess Kitana. I think she's trying to help us.

JOHNNY

Just because they don't trust her, doesn't mean we can.

LIU

Come on. She's trying to lead us out.

Liu heads down the narrow passage.

JOHNNY

(to Sonya)

Oh, yeah, he's gone.

Johnny shouts after Liu.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

JOHNNY

(whisper)

Liu!

(no response; to Sonya)

I hate this. Which way do we go?

SONYA

If this were one of your films, you'd  
know the way out.

JOHNNY

(smiles, "gotcha")

So.... You have seen my films. Which  
ones?

SONYA

(annoyed at herself)

Does it matter? They all have the same  
plot.

JOHNNY

They do not!

SONYA

The woman is always in jeopardy, and you  
always rescue her.

JOHNNY

Hey... just like real life.

Sonya, disgusted, turns, then tenses. They can see the shadows  
of Barakas behind them. Silently, they duck down the side  
corridor after Liu.

54 INT. TUNNELS

54

Liu enters a new chamber, just in time to see Kitana disappearing  
down another tunnel. He moves towards her. As Liu advances, the  
wall seemingly comes to life as Reptile steps away from the  
stones.

REPTILE

opens his green eyes. His pale mouth hisses hot, vaporous acid.

LIU

Momentarily blinded by the steam, Liu cannot react as Reptile  
trips him. He falls to the paving stones, as Reptile rushes past  
him and scuttles up the wall, disappearing into a hole high in the  
rock face.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

LIU  
(cries out)  
Aaaaahhh!

Moments later, Sonya and Johnny appear and pull him to his feet.

JOHNNY  
What happened? Liu?

Sonya quickly wipes the acid from his face and eyes.

LIU  
There's something... it's following her, too, I think.

Sonya glances back. She sees the Barakas following them.

SONYA  
We have to go now.

She turns to Liu.

SONYA  
Which way did Kitana go?

LIU  
Through the round tunnel.

They look at the four possible tunnel exits. They're all round!

SONYA  
Great!

Johnny takes the lead.

JOHNNY  
(decisively)  
This way.

SONYA  
Do you know what you're doing?

Liu glances back at the Barakas. They're almost upon them.

LIU  
I hope so.

They plunge down the tunnel after Johnny.

A INT. CAVERNS - (MATTE PAINTING)

54A

Sonya, Johnny, and Liu cross a natural rock bridge over a gaping chasm. They are lost once more in the underground labyrinth.

(CONTINUED)

54A CONTINUED:

54A

LIU

I don't like this.

SONYA

Do you know where you're going?

JOHNNY

I have a natural sense of direction.

54B INT. GORO'S THRONE ROOM

54B

The throne room is now empty. Johnny leads Sonya and Liu into the room. For a moment we see the shock on their faces before we reveal that they are right back where they started from. Sonya turns to Johnny.

SONYA

(sarcastic)  
Natural sense of direction.

A Baraka behind Johnny, charges with its spear! Sonya turns, sees, drops to the ground and sweeps Johnny's legs from under him.

JOHNNY

Hey!

As Johnny goes down, the Baraka's spear point passes him, slashing Sonya's arm. Liu, breaks the spear with a karate chop, and finishes the Baraka with some no-nonsense punch kick combinations. Johnny sees the wounds on her arm, and shakily helps her to her feet. He gently examines the wound.

JOHNNY

You okay?

SONYA

Just a scratch.

LIU

(sees more Barakas)  
Look out!

Six more Barakas appear from the gloom, encircling them warily. The three humans take a three point defensive stance.

JOHNNY

(to Sonya)  
Anyway.... Thanks for... you know.

Sonya is surprised. She studies him out of the corner of her eye as the Barakas close in.

(CONTINUED)

54B CONTINUED:

54B

SONYA

Don't mention it.

JOHNNY

(his old self)

Believe me, I won't tell a soul.

She is once again annoyed. Then the Barakas attack. Our three heroes fight off the first wave, using karate, jiu jitsu, whatever it takes to evade the deadly spears and lightning like attack of the partially armored attackers. A second rush is even more vicious, and it takes all our heroes skill to neutralize it. But finally, using the Barakas broken spears as fighting staffs and escrimas, Sonya, Johnny and Liu defeat the vicious Outworld denizens.

LIU

(keeps eyes on Barakas)

Anyone hurt?

They finally turn to look at one another, and can't help smiling.

JOHNNY

(a little amazed)

We did it! I've never done it for real before.

Johnny and Liu give a "fist touch" salute. Johnny turns to Sonya, she hesitates, then gives him a "high five" ... and a smile.

JOHNNY

(to Sonya; still excited)

I guess you know that.

Someone claps in slow, steady applause. They turn to discover...

RAYDEN...

sprawled comfortably across Goro's throne, still applauding. \*

RAYDEN

Congratulations. And what are you going to do about...

(nods behind them)

...them?

The threesome turn to find many more Barakas, closing in. Goro steps out from behind the barakas. He takes in the devastation. \*

GORO

(angry)

KILL THEM!

(CONTINUED)

54B CONTINUED: 2

54B

The barakas approach the humans but, Rayden steps between them and our heroes.

RAYDEN  
(veiled threat)  
We were just leaving.

The largest Baraka grunts. The three lower their spears at Rayden and edge in. Rayden raises his hand.

NEW ANGLE

Rayden's eyes glow for a second, his hand sparks with electricity. He raises a warning eyebrow... and the Barakas leap back. Rayden moves calmly forward, and the Barakas jostle one another, bony "armor" rattling, to make a path for him. He turns back to Sonya, Liu, and Johnny.

RAYDEN  
What are you waiting for?

They cautiously follow him through the Barakas, parted like the Red Sea to let them pass. Johnny glances nonchalantly at Goro.

JOHNNY  
Catch you later big guy.

Goro quivers with repressed rage, unable to do anything in the presence of Rayden. As they exit, Goro unleashes his fury and flattens an unsuspecting baraka standing innocently by him.

55 EXT. TUNNEL ENTRANCE - NIGHT

55

Bathed in the moonlight, as they step outside, Johnny, Sonya and Liu follow Rayden. He stops, fixes them with a stern eye.

RAYDEN  
I'm glad you're so proud of yourselves, but that little scrap is nothing compared to what you'll face in the Tournament.

JOHNNY  
You mean Goro.

RAYDEN  
And Shang Tsung.

LIU  
Will he fight in the Tournament?

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

RAYDEN

Perhaps. Shang Tsung is far more dangerous than Goro. His demon power comes from the souls of vanquished warriors... To fight Shang is to face not one, but a legion of adversaries.

(directly to Liu)

Remember that.

SONYA

But, how can Shang Tsung or Goro be defeated, then?

RAYDEN

They can be killed. Shang Tsung's power can be destroyed by mortal men and women... you must believe that, absolutely! You can overcome any adversary, no matter how bizarre their powers may seem. No matter how strong! There is always a way! Only one thing can defeat you... your own fear.

JOHNNY

What if we're not afraid?

RAYDEN

If you believe that, you've already lost.... You must first face your fears if you are to conquer them. You, Johnny, are afraid you're a fake. So, you'll rush into any fight to prove you're not. You'll fight... bravely enough... but foolishly... carelessly... and you'll be beaten.

(to Sonya)

You, Sonya, are afraid to admit even you sometimes need help. If you are afraid to trust... you will lose.

LIU

(challenging)

What about me?

The others turn to see what Rayden will say. Rayden approaches and speaks almost gently, but with the darkest urgency.

RAYDEN

You fear your own destiny. You already fled it once, when you went to America... and now that fear has brought you guilt for the death of your brother.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED: 2

55

LIU

I am responsible for Chan's death.

RAYDEN

No! Every mortal is responsible for his own destiny! Chan believed this. Why can't you?

LIU

I've tried!

RAYDEN

(intense; hoarse whisper)  
Despair is the most dangerous fear of all. Guilt over the past.... Dread of the future. These are your enemies.

(to them all)  
I know all this. And so does Shang.

SONYA

How?

RAYDEN

He can peer into your soul and use the fear he sees there against you. You must be prepared!

SCENES 56 AND 57 OMITTED

58 EXT. ISLAND - SUNRISE

58

The island is beautiful, majestic, mysterious as the red sun illuminates it.

59 EXT. GREAT HALL - DAY

59 \*

Establishing. The grounds are bustling with activity as the participants follow mute, black-clad monks to their matches. Johnny meets Art Lean at one arena, warming up. Art sees him.

ART LEAN

Hey, good luck!

Johnny is led by a monk, who turns and gestures him on.

JOHNNY

You, too!

Art disappears. Johnny turns and almost bumps into Liu.

LIU.

Watch yourself.

(CONTINUED)

59 CONTINUED:

59

JOHNNY

No sweat.

Sonya appears next to them.

SONYA

Don't either of you forget to duck.

There's a silent moment... a Three Musketeers kind of moment. The three touch fists again... make eye contact, and go their separate ways.

59A  
THRU  
59B

59A  
THRU  
59B

60 EXT. GROUNDS - LIU KANG'S BOUT

60

Liu is matched against a black cowled Outworld monk, who removes the cloak to reveal his formidable muscles. The monk, lips sealed like the others, fights ferociously, using a few Outworld tricks that Liu has never seen before. But Liu's patience and superior skill prevail. He wins the match.

61 EXT. GROUNDS - SONYA'S BOUT - DAY

61

Johnny is in search of a match: Sonya's. He stops when he sees her in a ring, facing off against JADE, an extraordinary looking Asian woman with tattoos. Jade demonstrates the use of two terrifying half-moon daggers. She spins them around her in a dazzling display.

JOHNNY

(to Sonya)  
Tough girl!

Sonya glares at him.

SONYA

looks her opponent over, and decides to make a very low, slow bow. Jade condescends to do the same, bowing even lower. Sonya kicks her in the head. Jade falls unconscious. Match over.

Sonya walks away past Johnny.

SONYA

Not that tough.

SHANG

stands near the arena. Sonya only notices him as she leaves.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

SHANG

Excellent.

She scowls and moves past him.

SCENES 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 OMITTED

67 INT. GREAT HALL - DAY

67

Liu waits on a raised platform, warming up. He turns to discover he is fighting Kitana. His surprise is written on his face, but she eyes him coldly. The monk brings them to the center of the mat, where they bow, then begin to circle. She probes his defenses, but he goes easy on her, evading her, but not counterattacking. Kitana's eyes grow colder. She feints again, he evades, but does not counter punch, and she sweeps him and pins him with her powerful legs.

KITANA

(hisses quietly)  
If you won't fight with all of your heart... there is no hope!

LIU

What?

Liu is bewildered, but realizes the truth in what she says. He uses his fighting skill to throw her off. She attacks skillfully again, but with a brilliant display of kung fu and aikido, he attempts to counter. Still, she pins him in a shoulder bar and forces him to the mat. While she holds him down, she whispers to him.

KITANA

To win your next match, use the element which brings life.

LIU

(puzzled; whispers)  
Why do you care if I win or lose?

SHANG

stands watching with a puzzled frown, from his lofty vantage point on the balcony.

RESUME FIGHT

Kitana sees him. In a deft jiu jitsu move, Liu Kang turns the tables on Kitana, and pins her forcefully to the mat. As his head hovers close to her mouth....

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

KITANA  
Remember my words.

WIDER

Kitana doesn't speak to Liu again, as the mute Monk approaches and gives the contest to Liu. He releases her. Kitana quickly rises and leaves the platform, sweeping under Shang's balcony. Shang bows to her with mock courtesy, then scowls and exits as well.

LIU

tries to follow Kitana through the hall, but as he passes, two Barakas bar his way. He glances up to see Shang, watching him. Kitana disappears through the doors.

68 EXT. GROUNDS - SONYA - DAY

68

Sonya lurks behind a pillar and watches another match which is about to get underway: Johnny's!

JOHNNY

warms up, keeping loose, practicing high-low kicking combinations. Then he spots Sonya who thinks about ducking out of sight, then realizes it is too late.

JOHNNY  
Hey.

SONYA  
(awkward)  
I... was between matches. Just passing by.

JOHNNY  
Yeah. Well... want to watch?

SONYA  
Nah. Gotta go.

JOHNNY  
Sure.

She goes. He follows her with his eyes, then senses, rather than hears his opponent enter behind him and turns to see

WIDER

a cowled figure, face in shadow... Scorpion!

(CONTINUED)

68 CONTINUED:

68

JOHNNY  
I remember you....

He turns, reaches into his tote bag, and brings out two long fighting daggers - sai. He turns back, grim, ready. The two opponents bow. Johnny must use all his skill to avoid Scorpion's deadly pincer claws, wielding the fighting daggers expertly and forcing the Outworld denizen to respect him. The fight seems to be a stalemate, until a claw firmly grasps one of the daggers, the second claw grabs the other. Johnny is lifted off the ground as he clutches them, but kicks savagely with both feet, right between Scorpion's strange eyes. A few brutal moves later, Johnny has won. Match over.

SCENE 69 OMITTED

70 INT. RUINED TEMPLE - DAY

70

The roof of the temple has caved in several places, and the walls are pierced with jagged holes. It is set into the side of the mountain. A "coolie" stoops under the weight of twin buckets, attached to a long pole carried across the shoulders as he enters the temple. The temple is dim in places, and blazing with sunlight which pours through the roof in others. The temple doesn't seem abandoned so much as defiled.... cluttered with debris. Only the banners of Mortal Kombat hung from the ceiling are new, swaying in the slight breeze. Several kerosene lanterns are hung from spikes. The "coolie" stops in front of the bowl-like torch which once burned with the sacred flame... extinguished now. The "coolie" puts down the yoke of water buckets, takes a ladle from one and sips. When he turns, we see it is Rayden. Voices from outside cause him to turn and leave.

71 INT. RUINED TEMPLE - DAY

71

LIU (O.S.)  
I fight here? In the temple?

A mute monk shows Liu inside. Liu's eyes are drawn to the familiar flame.

LIU  
Hey?

Liu watches the monk leave, then turns back and enters the temple. Several kerosene lanterns hangs on the walls, giving off a dim light in the darker recesses of the ruins.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

. 71

NEW ANGLE

An enormous shadow of a figure sprawls over the temple floor. Sub Zero stands backlit in the fissure of a ruined wall, watching him. His breathing is deep and sonorous, like the lowest, almost inaudible notes of a pipe organ. The temple seems to vibrate with the sound.

WIDER

Sub-Zero advances. He and Liu begin to fight. The battle rages the length of the temple, but despite his best efforts, Sub-Zero is unable to overcome Liu. They face off - a stalemate, and suddenly we realize that Sub-Zero has positioned Liu in the same way he positioned the Baraka in the earlier fight. Sub-Zero drops his guard for a moment, he appears defenseless, but in reality he is preparing to deliver a freezing blast of ice. Liu takes the opportunity to run at Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero fires, but Liu jumps and dodges the blast of ice. Liu flies through the air, his feet extended for a kick, but he misses Sub-Zero. Sub-Zero smiles triumphantly, but suddenly we realize that Sub-Zero was never Liu's target. Liu kicks at a pulley fastening on the wall, releasing the heavy chandelier that hangs above Sub-Zero. The chandelier crashes down, but stops several feet from the ground. The oil held in the chandelier's lamp splashes around Sub-Zero, drenching him. Sub-Zero smiles for a moment, thinking Liu has failed, but then he sees the torch in Liu's hand. Liu flings the torch at Sub-Zero and in an instant, the ninja is engulfed in a sea of flame. Liu steps back, beginning to believe that he has won!

From the hot center of the flames, Sub Zero stands, motionless, in complete concentration. He begins to lower his own body temperature. The flames that seemed to be consuming his body begin to waiver... then go out, leaving his body unscathed!

NEW ANGLE

Liu stares in disbelief. Waves of intense cold emanate from Sub Zero like concentric ripples on a pond. The frigid "force field" expands to extinguish the flaming kerosene pool, then passes over the blazing wood, leaving it steaming. The concentric circles nearly envelop Liu. As they touch him, the intense cold sears his flesh. He staggers back.

SUB ZERO

stands stock still, willing the tremendous biological engine inside him to lower the temperature further and further, until his features are cobalt blue, his smile glistening like polished lacquer. Behind him, a silhouette appears in the fissure of a ruined wall.

KITANA

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: 2

71

stands in the sunlight outside the wall.

LIU

sees her, and remembers once again, her riddle-like message. Liu frowns.

LIU

(to himself)

Use the force which brings life....

He is standing next to the second bucket of water, still attached to the pole.

LIU

Not fire. Water!

LIU

snatches the remaining bucket from the edge of the advancing Cold, clutches the pole attached to the remaining bucket and - two handed - he begins spinning it around like an Olympian making a hammer throw.

THE BUCKET

now has so much centrifugal force, that Liu can barely hold the pole attached to it. With a fierce cry, he releases his grip. The bucket flies off in a straight trajectory IN EXTREME SLOW MOTION. It tumbles through the air, releasing its contents: water. The water separates into several smaller streams that elongate as they hurtle through the air, and one long, jagged stream that stretches out into a jagged conical form. The water freezes, forming a long heavy icicle.

SUB ZERO

is struck by the large icicle. It flings him back against a wooden pillar. The jagged point emerges from the back of the pillar. Sub-Zero is transfixed.

SUB ZERO

is bewildered as he stares, in no apparent pain now, down at the huge icicle sticking through him. Then, as if the frigid internal reactor inside him had reached critical mass and imploded, his own body begins to freeze to solid ice. Sub Zero is transformed into a strange ice sculpture, dully translucent, lit as if from within by the remaining flames around the temple, flickering a dull, opaque reddish orange. His hands try to yank the giant ice spear from his chest, but they freeze to immobile crystal as well. Sub-Zero's head is the last to freeze. We see the rage and disbelief in his eyes as they turn to ice.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED: 3

71

WIDER

Liu and the "ice statue" form a strange tableau inside a circle of burning timbers - fire and ice. Liu stares at the frozen creature as the last dying flames dance and reflect off the ice. Liu looks past this incredible spectacle to the fissure in the wall.

NEW ANGLE

Only Kitana's receding shadow can be seen as she disappears.

72  
THRU OMITTED  
75

72  
THRU  
75

76 INT. GREAT HALL - SUNDOWN

76

It is the last bout of the long first day, and torches illuminate the hall. Johnny and Sonya enter through the crowd, and spot

SHANG TSUNG

sitting in a balcony in the place of honor, above the fighting arena. Shang notices Sonya and, smiles chillingly. She almost cringes.

WIDER

Johnny notices, and pushes Sonya away from the hypnotic gaze. They make their way toward the ring. Johnny admires the ornate ropes which surround the area.

JOHNNY

(to Sonya)  
Hey, check the ropes.

He taps them... they are solid stone. He smiles at this. Art Lean is already there, warming up, staying loose. His shadow punches and kicks are beautiful to behold. Johnny watches in admiration as he approaches Art's corner. Art sees him.

JOHNNY

Hey! How's it going?

ART LEAN

So far, so good.

JOHNNY

Who you fighting, now?

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED:

76

ART LEAN  
(takes a deep breath)  
Goro.

Art continues warming up. Johnny tries to hide his alarm. He keeps his tone upbeat.

JOHNNY  
Luck of the draw, huh? Hey, I'll give you some tips. Let me be your cornerman.

ART LEAN  
Cornerman? Why?

JOHNNY  
I've seen Goro.

Art nods grimly, and continues his vigorous punch kick combinations. Liu looks at the monks.

LIU  
At least they won't be cheering Goro on.

As one, the monks begin to stamp their feet. The sound is deafening. Then, there is a terrific roar--a sound Johnny has heard before in the caverns: Goro

JOHNNY AND ART

both turn at the sound and watch the far entrance.

GORO - CONTINUOUS

A retinue of surly Barakas come first, clearing a path. The huge drums are beating in a slow cadence as Goro makes his appearance, in his crimson cape. There is a wave of exclamations from the hall at the sight of him. He moves majestically to the arena, and climbs up onto the platform. Then he unbuckles his cape and lets it drop, revealing the four arms. The crowd gasps. The drums beat more rapidly.

SONYA AND LIU

Liu silently joins Sonya both almost hypnotized by Goro's presence.

SHANG TSUNG

watches from his place of honor, attentive, missing nothing.

ART AND JOHNNY

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: 2

76

study Goro. Art is amazed, but forces himself to remain calm.

ART LEAN

Any advice, Coach?

JOHNNY

Stay out of the clinches.

Art's smile is tight and crooked as he continues warming up.

WIDER

Goro turns his back on his adversary, and with two of his arms, ties his flowing mane of hair in a long pony tail, reaching down to his waist. Then he turns, with no further warm up and eyes Art Lean coldly. The mute Monk, obviously the head referee for the Tournament moves solemnly to the center of the mat and holds his hand out. The two fighters advance and bow. The Monk withdraws. Art doesn't hesitate. He attacks full out, punching, kicking, landing many of his blows, but if Goro feels them, he doesn't react. Johnny cheers wildly from the sidelines. The human contingent of the crowd joins in, while the fighters from Outworld watch silently. Art Lean feints, then leaps and lands a powerful kick, staggering Goro. Goro bellows with rage, his voice shaking the rafters, and counterattacks, his four fists flailing like windmills. Art dodges the mighty fists, but is forced to give ground. Art cannot get through the four-armed defense to follow up on his momentary triumph. Goro stalks Art, now, studying him for weaknesses.

JOHNNY

Make him come to you! Don't let him grab you!

But Art Lean is not a defensive fighter. He attacks, appearing to drive Goro back, but it is only a ruse. Suddenly, Goro's lower two arms snake out and grab Art.

ART LEAN

is pinned by the massive hands, and lifted off the mat. He struggles ferociously to free himself!

Art tries to claw Goro's eyes, but Goro holds him at arm's length.

JOHNNY

falls silent, fearful for his newfound friend.

LIU AND SONYA

look on grimly. The crowd falls nearly silent.

GORO AND ART LEAN

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: 3

76

are face to face. Goro studies the struggling man in his grasp.

GORO

You fought well.

SHANG

becomes enraged at this. He holds his hand up, commanding.

SHANG

Finish him!

GORO

looks up toward Shang, and a trace of fear flickers in his eyes... then something very like regret.

ART LEAN

makes one last desperate ploy to free himself, sensing the worst, but he's helpless. Goro lifts Art above him, and in one swift movement, he swings Art down against the ropes. The stone ropes shatter, showering the audience with shards of stone. As the cloud of dust clears, we see Art's body lying crumpled on the ground.

SHANG

(eyes closed; almost  
chantlike)

Flawless victory.

SHANG TSUNG

His eyes are closed, his bony finger outstretched, pointing down at Goro.

GORO

stares up at his master. His huge head sags a moment, then he carries the limp form of Art Lean to just below Shang, and goes down on one knee. His two free hands form a gesture of offering. Shang raises his hand. A mysterious wind begins to blow, causing the torches to flicker and dim. Everyone looks around, baffled... even frightened. A ghostly ethereal form begins to rise from Art's body as if ascending to heaven. Sonya, Johnny, and Liu look up as Art's spirit rises into the air. He seems at peace.

Suddenly, there is a terrible sound, a mixture of moaning and shrieking, a dissonant chorus, almost musical.

FOCUS PULL TO:

(CONTINUED)

76 CONTINUED: 4

76

Shang Tsung as he reaches out, his arm extending towards Art Lean's spiritual form.

SHANG

Your soul is mine.

ART LEAN'S SPIRIT

begins to be pulled towards Shang. His face distorting in pain. His arms claw the air but to no avail. He is dragged shrieking towards Shang. His face and body twisting into a grotesque parody of itself. Art's spirit is dragged straight into Shang's eye. Shang blinks and we see Art encased within his eye. As Art falls away into the darkness, Shang blinks again and the CAMERA RAPIDLY PULLS BACK, leaving the Great Hall far behind.

SCENES 77, AND 78 OMITTED

79 OMITTED

79

80 EXT. GREAT HALL - DUSK

80

Johnny, Sonya and several other humans carry from the hall - shoulder high - Art Lean's body, now wrapped in a white shroud. A solemn, solitary drum beats a slow cadence from somewhere inside the hall. They carry the corpse past Rayden, who watches stoically. Liu accosts Rayden.

LIU

You could have stopped that.

RAYDEN

I told you, I cannot interfere.

LIU

That's why I left the temple! All this mumbo jumbo about... about the power of reason and Light. But where are you when we need you? Where is that power?

RAYDEN

The power is in you. If the gods decide men's destiny, then there is no free will. No choice. In Outworld, the Emperor makes every decision. You have only to obey. Is that what you want?

Liu glares at him fiercely, and Rayden, saddened, turns and walks slowly away. Liu points to the pallbearers and the corpse.

(CONTINUED)

80 CONTINUED:

80

LIU

What choice did he have?

RAYDEN

(just as fierce)

He chose to fight and die a free man!  
If Outworld wins this Tournament, no  
mortal man will ever have that choice  
again!

It is a blistering rebuke. Rayden stands his ground, eyes  
blazing.

LIU

How can I defeat a... a sorcerer like  
Shang Tsung?

RAYDEN

Your problem is, you spend your life  
running from who you really are.

(beat; intensely)

Everything you need to win is within  
your grasp, but you must learn to trust  
your judgement. It will guide you to  
victory.

Liu, frustrated and angry, stalks off. Rayden shakes his head and  
turns to see that Johnny Cage has left the funeral cortege, and  
stands studying him. He has heard everything. Rayden turns and  
walks away.

81 OMITTED

81

82 EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT

82

Liu sits meditating. BEGIN FLASHBACK as he relives his nightmare:

82A EXT. HILL - NEAR VILLAGE - DAY

82A

Shang Tsung stands over Chan's body. The same cacophonous chorus  
of tormented voices cries out. Shang extend his hand above Chan's  
head, then pulls back, as if yanking something out of it. Just  
for a moment the voices reach a crescendo... then...!

CHAN (V.O.)

(in despair)

Liu!

Shang Tsung turns and looks straight into camera.

Q2B EXT. ISLAND - NIGHT

82B

The FLASHBACK ENDS. Liu opens his eyes, wide with terror from this waking nightmare.

83 OMITTED

83

DISSOLVE TO:

83A EXT. THE ISLAND - PANORAMA - DAWN

83A

A huge red sun begins to peer above the fog.

83B EXT. NEAR CLIFF - DAWN

83B

Sonya walks in the early light, lost in thought. She spies a lone figure in the mist, performing an intricate and impressive kata - a martial arts form - with grace, speed, and power, using a three piece sectional staff. The sectional staff whistles and whirls around the figure's body. She approaches the figure, silhouetted by the rising sun through the mist and recognizes him.

SONYA

Johnny?

Johnny stops, the staff sections folding back into his palm as if they had a life of their own--click, click. He turns, and comes toward her. His black gi is bathed in sweat from long exertion.

SONYA

Oh. I thought....

JOHNNY

(impish grin)  
Go ahead, say it.... You're impressed.

She smiles. It's a nice smile.

JOHNNY

Aha! Is that a smile?

A beat. Neither speaks, but....

SONYA

I... wanted to talk to you. I came by your room last night, but you were out....

JOHNNY

I was here.

(CONTINUED)

83B CONTINUED:

83B

SONYA  
You've been practicing all night?

JOHNNY  
And thinking.

SONYA  
I'm sorry about your friend, Art Lean.

JOHNNY  
I never had time for friends. Art was just a decent guy.  
(remembers)

I don't know what it's like to lose someone close, like Liu....

(remembers)  
Or you. I heard you talking about your partner the other night. Sorry.

She falls silent, then decides to confide.

SONYA  
He was more than my partner. We were engaged to be married.

Johnny is really rocked back. He searches for words, finds none.

SONYA  
He was the only man I ever trusted.

JOHNNY  
What happened?

SONYA  
He went into a building after Kano without waiting for backup. I guess he didn't think he could count on me.

JOHNNY  
So now, you go in alone... no backup, no overprotective guy.

She doesn't respond for a second, then tries to throw it off.

SONYA  
Something like that.

JOHNNY  
When did it happen?

SONYA  
It's been two years. Time enough get on with my life.

(CONTINUED)

83B CONTINUED: 2

83B

JOHNNY

But you haven't.

She shrugs, looks out at the view.

SONYA

Now you know what I'm doing here. What about you? Was Rayden right? Are you afraid you're just a phony?

JOHNNY

(dissimulates)

I want to prove I'm the best. Is that so complicated?

SONYA

(sarcastic)

A couple million fans already think you are. Can they be wrong?

JOHNNY

Maybe. I'm just tired of bluffing my way through life.

SONYA

Who'd have thought? Johnny Cage isn't a fan of Johnny Cage.

JOHNNY

Well, maybe it's time for me to become one. I've got an idea I can make a difference here.

SONYA

Look, you are one of the best fighters I've ever seen. You've just got to fight your own way. Be yourself, but don't do anything stupid.

JOHNNY

Wait a minute. Are you worried about me?

SONYA

You're being absurd. Why would I worry about you?

JOHNNY

You are worried.

SONYA

I am not....

(CONTINUED)

83B CONTINUED: 3

83B

JOHNNY  
(studies her)  
Yes, you are too.

SONYA  
(angrily)  
No, I'm not.

JOHNNY  
(smiles; dawns on him)  
You like me.

SONYA  
(slow burn)  
You are the most egotistical, self  
deluded, person I've ever met!

Infuriated, she wheels and leaves him there.

JOHNNY  
Oh yeah. She's crazy about me.

SONYA  
You wish.

84 OMITTED

84

85 EXT. GROUNDS - SONYA'S BOUT

85

Sonya is waiting impatiently in her fighting area. Liu  
approaches.

SONYA  
(worried)  
Have you seen Johnny?

LIU  
No. Why?

Just then, she sees Shang approaching her. He and Liu face off.  
Then Shang turns to Sonya. His smile chills her anew.

SHANG  
I have a present for you.

SONYA  
I don't want anything from you.

SHANG  
That's not true. There is one thing you  
want very much....

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED:

85

He steps aside, and Sonya sees Kano approaching. Kano gives her the Death Stare with his one good eye, then turns his back and begins warming up.

SHANG

I arranged this match just for you. I know how impatient you've become. I have every confidence you'll win.

SONYA

He's your stooge.

SHANG

But of limited use as my queen and consort.

SONYA

(realizes what he means)  
In your dreams.

SHANG

Nearly all of my dreams have already come true.

Shang steps back and the mute Monk comes forward to begin the bout. Kano swaggers forward.

LIU

Sonya.... Stay cool.

KANO

How ya doin', Babe? Did you miss me?

Sonya is deeply conflicted between the hate she feels for Kano, and Shang's words. The mute Monk withdraws. The two circle warily. Kano and Sonya trade blows. She batters his face with a quick series of round kicks. Kano lunges, misses, rolls, and comes up with a knife from his boot. He smiles.

KANO

Now this baby brings back memories.

SONYA

Let me guess. You used it to knife your mother in the back.

KANO

(grins)

Guess again. It put a big smile on your boyfriend... ear to ear.

Sonya's face goes white with rage. She searches for something to defend herself.

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED: 2

85

LIU  
(grabs something)  
Sonya!

Liu tosses her a pair of bamboo fighting sticks... escrimas... to defend herself as Kano expertly probes her defenses with the boot knife.

KANO  
That's the spirit. I like 'em mean and feisty.

Sonya kicks him in the balls! Then she attacks with a flurry of blows, and the battle is on in earnest. Shang looks on with interest. The fight continues until both opponents are tired and sweating. Finally, she disarms him with the fighting sticks, and he uses his strength to break the bamboo batons. Bare handed, Kano uses his superior size and strength to gain an advantage.

LIU  
Don't go head to head with him! Fight smart!

Sonya doesn't take her eyes off Kano, but she nods. When he moves in again, she uses aikido to nullify his charge.

LIU  
That's it!

But Kano is a savvy street fighter. He knows aikido, too, and suddenly the tables are turned. He has Sonya in a powerful hammerlock.

SHANG

becomes tense. Kano looks to him for permission to kill her, knowing it won't be granted. Shang shakes his head.

RESUME BOUT

Kano looks like he just might do it anyway. He exerts more pressure on her neck. She brings a heel crushing down on his instep. He yowls in pain as she repositions a leg, swivels her feet and throws him off of her. She kicks him twice in the face, dazing him. Then, she does a springing handstand, catches Kano's neck between her legs and throws him to the ground, squeezing tighter and tighter, strangling him.

LIU  
Sonya, that's what he wants!

SHANG

(CONTINUED)

85 CONTINUED: 3

85

beams with pleasure. The same dissonant music of voices in anguish.

SHANG

That's right. Finish him! Pay me tribute with his death!

His hand begins to reach in to take Kano's warrior soul.

SONYA AND KANO

Sonya stares down at the struggling Kano, his face bright red, his exertions weakening. She could kill him now.

LIU

(pleading)  
If you do it, Shang will own you.

She realizes he's right.

SONYA

No!

She releases Kano from the death grip. He flops weakly onto the ground, defeated. Sonya stands, looks down on him, then turns and walks away. Shang steps in front of her, barring the way.

SHANG

You disappoint me. That isn't wise.

SONYA

I don't answer to you.

Shang's eyes flash with anger, then he bows almost mockingly.

SHANG

But one day soon... you will.  
(eyes sweep the humans  
around him)  
All of you will!

And Shang sweeps off. Liu approaches Sonya.

LIU

You okay?

She holds up her fists. He touches them with his.

85A

EXT. GROUNDS - VARIOUS - DAY

85A

In a brief, kinetic MONTAGE, we see several human combatants shown in TIGHT CLOSE UP crashing to the ground, defeated by the warriors of Outworld.

DISSOLVE TO:

5B EXT. ISLAND - VARIOUS ANGLES - LATE AFTERNOON

85B

The sun has swung through its arc and now throws long shadow from the buildings and statues. Suddenly, we hear it... a faint echo....

JOHNNY (O.S.)

Goro! Goro!

The island echoes with the call, and the other fighters hear. The monks look curiously around.

JOHNNY (O.S.)

(echo)  
Goro! Goro!

85C EXT. STATUARY GARDEN - LATE AFTERNOON

85C

Johnny falls silent and waits among the long shadows of ancient warriors. Shang appears at the far end of the garden near the Great Hall.

SHANG

What do you want?

JOHNNY

An Oscar and a film with Michelle Pfeiffer. But I'll settle for that big four-armed sonofabitch.

SHANG

(amused)  
You're challenging Goro?

JOHNNY

What? I need a written invitation?  
Yeah, I'm challenging him. Here. Now.

SHANG

You're very foolish.

JOHNNY

That's what people say.

SHANG

Very well. I will grant your demand.  
But as a former champion, I reserve the right to challenge--

JOHNNY

Yeah, yeah. The winner. You got it!

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED:

85C

SHANG

The winner... or another of my choosing,  
at the place appointed by me.... For  
the final battle.

RAYDEN (O.S.)

(voice like thunder)

No!

WHIP PAN to reveal Rayden.

SHANG

The rules are quite clear, Lord Rayden.

RAYDEN

He didn't know!

(to Johnny)

Withdraw your challenge.

SHANG

Too late, I'm afraid. How do you say  
it: 'A deal's a deal?'

Shang turns and walks away.

RAYDEN

What have you done?

JOHNNY

(defiant)

Exercised my own free will. Made a  
choice. I thought you'd be pleased. Or  
was that just a crock?

RAYDEN

Are you mocking me?

JOHNNY

(hard edged)

No. I'm telling you to go away. This  
is our Tournament, remember! Mortal  
Kombat! We fight it!

Rayden stands mutely appraising Johnny. Behind him, other  
fighters, including Sonya and Liu have gathered.

LIU

(urgent)

What's he done?

RAYDEN

Made a choice. At last, one of you has  
understood!

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED: 2

85C

Liu is surprised. Rayden is proud of Johnny. He moves off. Liu turns to see Kitana walking toward the garden.

KITANA

(as she passes; quietly)  
Your turn will come.

LIU

How? Whoever wins... it's over.

KITANA

(turns to go)  
Trust me.

The stillness is shattered by a terrible sound: Goro's ferocious roar! The crowd parts. Prince Goro appears in the tunnel entrance. He raises his arms and roars his savage challenge again!

JOHNNY

You're gonna hurt yourself, doing that.

Goro stops to consider the man in front of him. He reaches for the buckle to loosen his cape.

GORO

Strange. We've just met... and already I don't like you.

JOHNNY

If you don't like me now, wait till later.

#### IN THE STATUARY GARDEN

the mute Monk stands between the two fighters. The red sun is low in the sky, behind Johnny. Goro holds up one huge hand to shield his large eyes. Johnny removes his own dark sunglasses and offers them.

JOHNNY

Want to borrow these?

Goro takes the glasses and crushes them.

GORO

I'm going to enjoy dismembering you.

The Monk lowers his arms and moves quickly out of the way. The match has begun. Johnny takes the two long objects from behind Kung Lao's statue - a pair of sectional staffs, attached by chain links. He whirls them impressively.

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED: 3

85C

JOHNNY

Now we both have a long reach.

As if to prove the point, when Goro reaches in to grab Johnny, he gets his knuckles badly rapped by the whirling staffs. He pulls back with a grunt of pain, then charges, windmill fists flailing. Johnny does several quick back flips to avoid the onrush. He disappears behind a statue.

NEAR GARDEN

Liu and Sonya watch, puzzled.

SONYA

What's he doing?

LIU

Playing hide and seek.

RESUME FIGHT

Goro, disoriented by the long shadows, loses sight of Johnny, who dodges behind another statue. Suddenly one of the sectional staffs whistles through the air and wraps around Goro's wrist. Johnny uses the staff to hold the wrist in a "nutcracker" type grip. Johnny tightens the vice-like grip on the wrist, breaking it! Goro yanks the sectional staff from Johnny's grasp. The crowd is startled by Goro's hellacious roar!

Johnny reappears atop the statue, then dives and rolls with Goro in hot pursuit. Goro holds his injured hand carefully away from Johnny, guarding it. Johnny makes his remaining sectional staff sing through the air, forcing Goro to respect the distance between them. The cheers from the crowd encourage Johnny.

GORO

That was very clever.

As he speaks, Goro lunges in, nearly catching Johnny off guard. Johnny dives, wraps the sectional staff around Goro's ankle, yanks hard, crushing the ankle and sending the monster sprawling face first onto the ground. With one of his lower arms, Goro reaches down and wrenches the second sectional staff from his ankle, hurling it over the cliff. Goro, seething with fury, rises and limps painfully toward his now unarmed opponent.

JOHNNY

moves in a crouch around the base of another statue. He doesn't see the long shadow of Goro appear behind him as the Shokan stealthily climbs up onto the statue. Goro springs! Johnny barely evades the massive body. Enraged, Goro corners Johnny, and a backhand fist sends him careening into a pedestal, knocking the wind out of him.

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED: 4

85C

Johnny clutches his side in extreme pain and shuffles away from the slow moving Goro, who limps toward him with death in his eyes.

NEAR THE GARDEN

Rayden watches, his face a mask. Liu and Sonya fear the worst.

LIU

Fight your own fight, Johnny! Don't fight his!

IN THE GARDEN

Johnny takes another punch to the body, reels back, and Goro lands a blow that sends Johnny flying. He lies there, unconscious.

SHANG

allows the gleam of pleasure come into his face. Then... the aura begins to grow around him. The chorus of the damned raise their hellish clamor.

AROUND THE GARDEN

The crowd implores Johnny.

LIU

Johnny! Get up!

SONYA

Johnny! Johnny please!

STATUARY GARDEN NEAR CLIFF

Goro scoops up Johnny's inert form with his two good lower arms. He raises his good upper fist to finish Johnny, but sees that won't be necessary. Goro knows what he must do, now. He turns toward Shang.

SHANG AND GORO

The dissonant music of the enslaved souls reaching all ears. Goro stands, war weary, before his master, not kneeling, a hint of defiance in his large black eyes. Shang sees. His hand reaches out.

SHANG

Where is my tribute?

Goro goes down on one knee, holding Johnny's inert form up in offering to Shang, as his one good lower hand makes a halfhearted gesture of appeasement. Shang's visage shows his satisfaction. His hand reaches toward...

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED: 5

85C

JOHNNY

who has seemed unconscious in Goro's grasp, but now suddenly comes to life as he is lifted to the Shokan's eye level. In one incredibly rapid motion, Johnny comes to life and lands a powerful karate punch right between Goro's eyes!

JOHNNY

(kiyai)

Aiyaah!

WIDER

Staggered, Goro loosens his grip on Johnny in pain and amazement, roaring until the statues tremble. Johnny grabs the long pony tail, loops it around Goro's thick neck, and swings himself onto Goro's back between the Shokan's massive shoulders, using his own body weight and leverage to slowly strangle him. Goro's arms cannot reach back to snatch Johnny off. He gasps, his tongue lolling in his mouth, unable to breath or speak.

JOHNNY

What's the matter? Having a bad hair day?

Johnny increases his pressure on the strangle hold. Goro attempts to smash Johnny against a statue pedestal, then slumps to his knees. In a desperate move, he suddenly lunges backward, trying to roll over and crush Johnny under him. But Johnny leaps off, and now his attack on Goro is merciless, punch kick combinations rain down on the huge head, preventing him from getting back on his feet. Goro wheezes, trying to catch a breath, flailing with his good arms at Johnny, trying to regain his footing with one broken ankle. In a last lunge, he manages to pounce, nearly landing on Johnny who side steps. Goro misses him and rolls over the cliff! His upper hands manages to grab the edge of a rock outcropping, but before he can hoist himself back up, Johnny does a flip, and lands squarely on one of the hands with both heels, crushing it.

GORO

bellows with pain and the crushed hand releases its grip. He now hangs suspended by his one good upper arm above the swirling clouds obscuring the beach far below. The good lower hand cannot reach up to help him regain the cliff edge. His own massive weight is now working toward his doom.

JOHNNY AND GORO

Johnny moves to the edge of the cliff and looks over. Below Goro, the clouds twist and whirl, seeming almost to reach up for him. A stiff wind tousles Johnny's hair. He doesn't gloat.

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED: 6

85C

WIDER

Shang strides to the edge of the cliff, shocked and enraged.

SHANG

Finish him!

Goro realizes what this means. For the first time, we see his eyes dilate with fear.

GORO

No....

Johnny looks at Goro, defeated, not begging, still somehow noble....

JOHNNY

So you can steal his soul? I've won.  
That's enough.

Shang's face contorts with hatred.

SHANG

His soul now... Or yours later!

He is face to face with Johnny, but Johnny's calm visage shows no sign of fear. Johnny takes the discarded sectional staff in both hands, braces himself and dangles it to where Goro can grasp it with his good lower hand.

JOHNNY

Go on. Grab hold.

GORO

(weakening)

So I can crawl back to my cave and die  
in disgrace. I am a Shokan warrior! We  
die in battle!

Johnny understands. The wind blows the clouds around below Goro, who still dangles over the chasm.

JOHNNY

You fought well.

Goro grunts. How many times has he said this, himself? Then he lets go of the outcropping! His huge body spins down, down, and plunges into the swirling mass of clouds.

NEAR CLIFF

Johnny approaches Rayden, who nods his approval.

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED: 7

85C

RAYDEN

Well done.

Just then there is a violent scream, not of fear, but anger.

SONYA (O.S.)

No! Let me go!

They turn to see

SONYA AND SHANG

Sonya is held immobile in a grip by Shang Tsung. \*

SHANG

I hereby exercise my right of challenge!  
I challenge her!

RAYDEN

You're a coward, sorcerer! Stand and  
fight!

SONYA AND SHANG

An invisible cyclone kicks up dust and swirls high in the air. \*

SHANG

The rules of The Tournament are quite  
clear, Lord Rayden. Mortal Kombat  
continues.... I'm simply changing the  
place!

WIDER

The whirlwind grows larger, encompasses Shang as well. \*

JOHNNY

Sonya!

But she is gone. He rushes to Rayden.

JOHNNY

Where has he taken her?

RAYDEN

To the Emperor's castle in the  
wastelands of Outworld. Where I cannot  
follow.

LIU

But I can.

JOHNNY

Hey, I'm going, too.

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED: 8

85C

Rayden stands apart with Liu and Johnny in the garden.

RAYDEN

I've got to take the others back, or they'll be trapped on Outworld. The cobalt mines of Shokan are a terrible place to die. I can only come for you after the final battle is won.

JOHNNY

Rayden.... Can Sonya beat Shang?

RAYDEN

No.

JOHNNY

There's gotta be something. We can't just quit on her.

RAYDEN

There is one last rule.... Shang neglected to mention it.

JOHNNY

What?

LIU

(remembers, brightens)  
She has to accept the challenge.... Or there can be no final combat.

JOHNNY

But you know her.... She'll never back down. I've got to stop her! I can fight Shang! Tell me how to get to this... Outworld!

RAYDEN

(rueful)

You think you can beat Shang, but you can't even find him. Johnny Cage, you have played your part splendidly. But this battle you cannot win.

JOHNNY

Then who can?

Rayden doesn't speak, but his eyes drift to Liu, who understands. Johnny lets this sink in.

(CONTINUED)

85C CONTINUED: 9

85C

JOHNNY

(to Liu)  
I'm going with you.  
(trace of humor)  
I hope you know how to get there?

LIU

We're already there.

Johnny frowns, perplexed.

RAYDEN

(nods; small smile)  
I have nothing further to teach you Liu  
Kang. You possess the knowledge to  
defeat Shang. All that is lacking now,  
is the will.

He puts a fatherly hand on Liu's shoulders. The storm that began with Shang Tsung's and Sonya's disappearance has now built in intensity. The thunderous storm clouds surge across the statuary garden enveloping our characters in darkness.

6 OMITTED

86

87 EXT. - OUTWORLD - NIGHT

87

Rayden and the others are gone. Johnny and Liu stand in the remnants of a devastated ancient city. A roadway of black ash leads through the ruins to a distant towering mountain fortress - The Black Tower. The roadway is lined with twisted metal gargoyles. On close inspection these towering figures contain Outworld victims - unfortunate humanoids encased within the metal bodies of the gargoyles.

JOHNNY

So, where are we, oh Chosen One?

LIU

Where we've always been....Outworld.  
The island was the last connection to  
home.... The figment of a formidable  
imagination.

JOHNNY

Rayden's?

LIU

Or the Emperor's. It was created for  
The Tournament. Now destroyed.

(CONTINUED)

87 CONTINUED:

87

JOHNNY

(looks at gray desolation)  
This is Outworld? I can see why they  
would want a change of scenery.

They peer at the black tower on the distant mountain.

LIU

We should head for that tower.

JOHNNY

You think it's the Emperor's castle?

LIU

If you were master of all you surveyed,  
where would you put your castle?

JOHNNY

Good point.

They walk along a desolate avenue, past ruined buildings, toward  
the tower.

88 EXT. THE BLACK TOWER - NIGHT

88

Brooding and ancient, it is hard to discern where the black  
mountain ends and the Tower begins. A slate road winds down from  
the Tower gates to a desolate plain below. The camera drifts  
towards the tower and pushes through a menacing window.

89 INT. TOWER - NIGHT

89

Sonya sits in the thick-walled window opening. She wears black  
chains, but is otherwise unharmed. The mute Monk stands watching  
her. Sonya looks from the window to her chains, then at him. He  
stares at her placidly.

SONYA

What are you looking at, you  
stitch-lipped sonofabitch?

The Monk remains impassive, then, slowly, his eyes turn to watch  
as a door opens and Shang Tsung enters.

SONYA

You really know how to show a girl a  
good time.

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED:

89

SHANG

Your childish impertinence is beneath  
the Emperor's notice. In time you will  
learn respect for him... and all his  
works.

SONYA

Who's going to teach me, you?

SHANG

I'm a very persuasive teacher.

SONYA

(unsettled; cracks wise)  
So, the boss man wasn't thrilled with  
the news, I guess. Did he chew you out,  
or is he the brooding, silent type?

SHANG

Our Great Leader has no need for idle  
chatter. What he doesn't like...

(near shudder)

He destroys.

SONYA

Do you expect me to cry and beg for  
mercy, now?

SHANG

No, my dear. I expect you to fight  
me... and lose!

SONYA

What if I refuse?

The mute Monk shifts uncomfortably, giving an obscure hint to Sonya that she's on to something. Shang tries to mask his own discomfort at this thought.

SHANG

You...? Back down from a challenge.  
When have you ever done that? It's  
simply not in your nature.

SONYA

What about Johnny Cage? He beat Goro,  
and he'll come for me.

SHANG

I hope he does. Fighting a big brute  
with pretensions of... honor is one  
thing.... Fighting me is something  
else, again.

(CONTINUED)

89 CONTINUED: 2

89

SONYA

I noticed.

SHANG

If you want to spare him... you will  
fight me... tomorrow, at dawn. And...  
after I have entered the Realm of Earth  
triumphantly with my Benevolent Master,  
I will raise you up... my consort and my  
queen.

SONYA

In which lifetime?

SHANG

Slave consort, if that's how you want  
it. I'll lay the Realm of Earth at your  
feet.

SONYA

You're demented.

SHANG

Am I?

He starts to leave her.... Angry and desperate, she lashes out.

SONYA

And.... You're frightened!

SHANG

(hiding his disquiet)  
Frightened? Of whom?

Shang turns and leaves.

90 EXT. OUTWORLD - RUINED CITY - NIGHT

90

Liu and Johnny hide in the ruins, peering out.

A ROAD - THEIR POV

The road is filled with a procession of slaves being driven along  
by their Shokan overlords, wielding whips.

RESUME LIU AND JOHNNY

who watch in fascinated horror.

JOHNNY

Tell me there aren't really a bunch of  
Goro's out there?

(CONTINUED)

90 CONTINUED:

90

LIU

It must be a patrol from the Shokan army...hunting down what's left of the people here. We're just going to have to let them pass.

JOHNNY

If we don't get to that tower, this is what Rodeo drive is going to look like.

LIU

I hope Sonya doesn't accept Shang's challenge.

JOHNNY

She won't.

Liu and Johnny share a look.

JOHNNY/LIU

We've got to get to that tower!

Johnny follows after Liu. There is a movement... a rustling. Johnny turns, looks, sees nothing, and hurries to catch up with Liu.

91 INT. SONYA'S CELL - TOWER - NIGHT

91

The Monk has released Sonya from her chains. He now closes the door on her and locks it. The cell is simple, with a meal spread out on a wooden table. She walks around, frustrated. She then sits to eat, opens a kettle and reaches in with a large spoon. As two twitching antennae appear over the rim of the kettle, she slams the lid back down, and shudders.

92 EXT. OUTWORLD - NIGHT

92

Although there is not even a rustle of wind, a soft moan is heard. Johnny is disturbed by the sound. The road they are on passes between a row of gargoyle-like statues, pale in the dim light.

JOHNNY

What's that noise?

Liu stops and puts up a hand. He closes his eyes, and hears, faintly, the sound of raspy breathing. Liu's hand shoots out from his side, and without opening his eyes, he grasps Reptile by the neck and pulls him from his perfectly camouflaged position.

LIU

Gotcha!

(CONTINUED)

92 CONTINUED:

92

Reptile tries to spew acid, but Liu twists his neck around and it sprays away from him. Reptile thrashes and changes hews four, five six times... then finishes a ghastly moonlight white, red eyes staring defiantly. Reptile tries to claw Liu's eyes, squealing like a wild boar, but Liu grapples with him. The two spin and squirm across the ancient paving stones, then Liu hurls him hard into a gargoyle statue, which lies broken at the side of the road.

THE GARGOYLE STATUE

seems to hold Reptile in some invisible force field as he tries to break away. Then, in the blink of an eye, the gargoyle entwines and imprisons him. Reptile seems to be part of the statue now.

JOHNNY

Okay. All right. The gargoyle ate him.

KITANA (O.S.)

You're learning the dangers of Outworld. But you have much more to learn. Come.

They turn to see Kitana, in the moonlight looking luminous in her white garments.

LIU

Princess Kitana!

KITANA

Shang plans to fight your friend for the Final Combat.

JOHNNY

Sonya! Has she accepted?

KITANA

(shakes head)  
Not yet. But Shang is persuasive. We must hurry.

She turns and leads the way.

93 INT. SONYA'S CELL - NIGHT

93

The intense moonlight foil Sonya's attempts at sleep. She rises, paces, goes to the window.

THROUGH THE WINDOW

The ancient ruins of the once-magnificent city stretch out before her.

4 EXT. OUTWORLD - RUINS - NIGHT

94

The blasted cityscape oppresses Liu and Johnny as they keep up with Kitana.

LIU

What happened here?

KITANA

The same thing that will happen to your world, unless you prevent it. My father was the rightful ruler of Outworld. Then his best warriors lost ten Mortal Kombats, and the Emperor entered the Realm, killed my parents and adopted me... to lay claim to the throne.

JOHNNY

Why didn't the people of Outworld rise up and fight him?

KITANA

The Emperor sent the Spreading Darkness over the land. It wiped out all memory of the past. The people forgot who they were.

LIU

(stunned)

I saw this in a dream. Only it was my home.

KITANA

The dream is a warning. The reality depends on you. Before the Emperor enters Earth's portal, He will first send his armies, led by Shang, who will cast the Darkness before him.

(ominous)

Your soldiers will wander dazed from the battlefield. Your great universities will be razed to the ground... your libraries burned.... So that no one can relearn what has been forgotten.

(CONTINUED)

94 CONTINUED:

94

The rising fury in Kitana's voice stuns Liu and Johnny.

KITANA

The strong will be enslaved, as they were here. Shang, the Sorcerer, will use their forced labor to engineer the destruction of all that was good and beautiful...

(her voice charged with emotion)

Those unfit for hard labor - the old and the children - will be exterminated. Their burial mound will rise higher than your tallest mountains. And on it the Emperor will build his castle as their only monument!

She stops, unable to continue.

LIU

(near whisper)

How can one person stop such horror?

KITANA

You have the same power to save the world as Shang has to enslave it. He was born a mortal and can still be destroyed.

JOHNNY

(respectful)

Ah... I think the man's question was... "How?"

KITANA

Look not to the weapon, but the hand that wields it. Your eyes must burn away all fear, all doubt... to see what is true!

Liu and Johnny absorb all this in silence.

KITANA

If I did not believe you could do this, Liu Kang. I would not have helped you.

She leads off; the trio strides through the ruins toward the looming

MOUNTAIN OF THE DEAD

and the Black Tower built upon it.

95 EXT. BLACK TOWER - NIGHT

95

The gates to the Black Tower, guarded by Barakas, are thrown open for a procession of black cowled monks who make their way up the winding road from the plain below. Three more cowled figures fall in behind and enter before the gates are again closed.

95A INT. BLACK TOWER DUNGEON - ARENA - NIGHT

95A

Below the conical tower is a round, mandala-like arena of mosaic design made from thousands of smooth, flat stones. At the center, in black onyx, is the emblem of Mortal Kombat, illuminated by dozens of blazing torches around the dungeon. Black-cowled monks encircle the arena floor. Doors are thrown open and Sonya is nearly dragged in chains down winding stairs into the dungeon.

From the tower above, a huge drum sounds a solemn cadence, as Shang Tsung, dressed simply in black, is escorted by a another cortege of monks.

96 OMITTED

96

As the procession reaches the circle, three black-cowled monks step to the center of the arena and wait. They remove Sonya's chains.

SONYA

I won't fight you, Shang! I'm not playing into your game, whatever it is.

SHANG

There is no one else. The Realm of Earth will forfeit the Tournament, and its portals will open to our great emperor.

SONYA

No! I-- My friends are coming!

SHANG

Hoping against hope is such an endearing, human trait. I'm touched. Really.

(to monks)

Take her back upstairs. The emperor will be overjoyed.

Two of the cowled monks already in the circle step forward.

SONYA

No! Wait!  
(hesitates; despondent)  
I'll....

(CONTINUED)

95A CONTINUED:

95A

SHANG

Yes?

SONYA

(firm conviction)  
My friends will come.

Now one of the monks throws back his cowl. It's Johnny.

JOHNNY

They're here already.

Sonya is thrilled. Shang is surprised. Several of his escorts move forward, but Shang holds up a hand to stop them.

SHANG

Right on cue. So much like an actor.  
Are you challenging me?

The second monk now throws back his cowl: Liu.

LIU

No. I am.

Shang's face falls. Liu, Johnny and Sonya see it. Shang doesn't want to fight him.

SHANG

(enraged)  
Seize them!

The escort of monks once more surges forward, but the third cowled figure in the circle now reveals herself: Kitana!

KITANA

Would you interfere with The Tournament!  
And betray our... benevolent emperor.  
In his great wisdom, he knows that  
Mortal Kombat cannot be won by  
treachery!

The monks fall back before the regal presence of the princess, her face flushed with righteous anger.

KITANA

Your stupidity will lose for all time  
the keys to the Realm of Earth!

At that moment the entire Tower resonates like a gigantic drum, as if monstrous fist has crashed down upon the world. The doors leading to the Tower above are blown open by a great wind which sweeps through the dungeon.

IN THE CIRCLE

(CONTINUED)

95A CONTINUED: 2

95A

The monks cringe and hide their faces. The wind subsides.

KITANA

Our Beloved Master knows I speak the truth.

SHANG

Our Beloved Master also knows you are a traitor! He can read your deceitful heart!

KITANA

(solemn)

He reads what is there, but he cannot change it.

Shang realizes he has been outwitted. Liu steps forward.

LIU

(proclaims)

I am Liu Kang, descendant of Kung Lao! I challenge you to Mortal Kombat! Do you accept, or yield?

The monks quickly withdraw from the mandala. Kitana, Liu, and Sonya draw back as well, leaving Shang and Liu alone.

SHANG

closes his eyes.

SHANG

I accept.

WIDER

But this time, the voices hundreds of warrior souls - louder and more tormented than anything we have yet heard, seem to swirl around the mandala, echoing off the round stone walls with an absolutely deafening din! The circle of stones on the arena floor suddenly begins to separate along jagged lines, opening into several deep pits with long spikes waiting to impale anyone who should fall into them. With the whirling, reverberating cacophony of lost souls, growing ever louder as they shout their pain and hatred, calling out a terrible warning to Liu in many, many tongues, Liu seems disoriented, and for a moment... terrified!

JOHNNY, SONYA, KITANA

are forced to the edge of the mandala, astonished. Johnny covers his ears.

(CONTINUED)

95A CONTINUED: 3

95A

JOHNNY

(shouting to be heard)  
What is that sound?

KITANA

Hundreds of warrior souls crying out. A thousand years of victories. The source of all Shang's power.

SHANG

stands at the center of the mandala near the gaping pits. Although the Spectral Cyclone of souls is invisible, the deafening sound of dissonant voices whirls around the arena, disorienting Liu as he moves along a narrow stone path toward the figure. Twice he nearly teeters into the spiked pits. Then he closes his eyes, waits, composes himself. He is ready. But then, unexpectedly...

WIDER

Ten great warriors appear around the arena walkways over the pit. The fierce fighters of ancient combats with Shang Tsung throughout history. They are the best of the souls Shang Tsung has captured. From all races and cultures.

LIU'S POV

Liu blinks at the apparitions... and catches a glimpse of Shang Tsung among them... now here, now there.... In the growing illusion, he even seems interspersed among the waiting warriors. Liu blinks.

WIDER

The spectral, invisible voices seem to mute, their chant becomes more rhythmic, as if they, too, are waiting for something.

JOHNNY, SONYA, AND KITANA

look on.

JOHNNY

(sarcastic)  
Oh, that's fair!

SONYA

Every time Liu starts to win, Shang uses magic.

KITANA

Magic is only an illusion.. Force alone will not defeat it. He must see beyond it.

(CONTINUED)

95A CONTINUED: 4

95A

THE ARENA - CONTINUOUS

Liu composes himself and walks toward the last place he has seen Shang. A warrior interposes himself. There is a terrific battle, but Liu's skill and determination carry the battle. The first warrior does not die, but rather evaporates in a sheet of flame. Liu catches another glimpse of Shang, but again he is challenged and must fight a second warrior. Thus the battle continues for several minutes, as Liu makes his way along the narrow walkways, narrowly avoiding death on the spikes in the pit below, decapitation, impalement, and destruction at the hands of the formidable warriors who - one by one - interpose themselves between Liu and the real Shang. Liu's fighting skills become sharper and sharper, until he is rapidly dispatching even the most deadly opponents... until only one remains. The voices of Shang's enslaved souls suddenly go silent!

CHAN

stands before his brother. He smiles lovingly.

WIDER

Liu is disarmed by this unexpected apparition. Chan walks slowly toward him, the warm smile in place. Liu is as transfixed by the hypnotic eyes as the junk captain was by the giant cobra's. He begins backing away from the apparition.

CHAN

Liu. It's me. I've come to help you.

LIU

(disoriented)  
Chan. No, it's not you.

CHAN

Rayden sent me.

LIU

You're not Chan.

Liu is backing toward the spiked pit, unaware.

CHAN

I died for you.

Liu is caught in "Chan's" mesmerizing stare, listens to his soft voice. He is only yards from the pit, now.

LIU

Chan...?

CHAN

Yes. Give me your hand.

7 INTERCUT WITH JOHNNY, KITANA, SONYA

97

As they register their reactions.

CHAN

They've all lied to you. I will show  
you what is true!

Chan holds out his hand toward his brother, only yards away. The words register on Liu.

CHAN

Come with me.

LIU

(repeats)  
"What is true..."

CHAN

We can be together, now.

Liu turns his gaze away.

LIU

(murmurs)  
Let my eyes burn away all fear and  
guilt....

CHAN

(slightly worried)  
Look at me.

LIU

(fighting his inner demon)  
No!

Chan steps forward, only moments from shoving Liu onto the spikes behind him in the dark pit.

CHAN

Liu....

Liu is nearly under Shang's spell. With his last will power, he shuts his eyes tight, repeating a mantra to himself.

LIU

Let me see what is true!

Liu opens his eyes.

LIU'S POV SHANG/CHAN

At first, Liu sees only his brother Chan...

CHAN

Brother....

(CONTINUED)

97 CONTINUED:

97

But then, a mere shadow at first, he begins to see Shang Tsung through the illusion. Shang's image grows brighter, overwhelming the magical spell until Liu sees not his brother's hand reaching out in friendship, but the long, talon-like fingers reaching straight for Liu's chest... as if to pierce it and pull his heart out, or wrench his soul from his body.

WIDER

Liu looks up just as "Chan" lunges to push Liu into the pit, but Liu's hand comes up even faster and grasps the hand. With all of his determination and strength, he begins to crush it. "Chan's" kind features melt away into the pained grimace of Shang, eyes glowing malevolently, fangs bared! The sounds from the unseen Spectral Cyclone begins to rotate faster and faster, as if energizes with excitement. There is a babble of voices in many languages, hard to distinguish what is being said. The noise is again deafening. Shang manages to break Liu's grasp, but Liu is now in full counterattack, using all his phenomenal skills as a fighter to force Shang back. The spectral babble of voices has now unified into one cry, from many voices. "Finish Him!" Shang hears them, and is bewildered.

LIU

You hear them, Shang! All the souls you've stolen. The voices of your slaves. They've turned against you! Release them!

The voices of the invisible warrior souls whisper to Liu: "Finish Him." They no longer seem whirl like a mad cyclone, but hover in needy anticipation.

SHANG

(defiant)  
They are mine. And so are you.

And with that, Shang mounts a last, ferocious counterattack. For a brief few moments, it looks as if the sheer momentum of the assault will drive Liu back into the spiked pit. But at the last possible instant, Liu diverts the charge, and Shang's own elan carries him over the edge. He plummets into the deepest pit. Liu is on his knees, gasping for breath. He peers over the edge. It's over.

LIU

(near exhaustion)  
Flawless victory.

Then, from the depths of the pit, an intense, laser-like pillar of light bursts upward, streaming through the stone roof of the dungeon amidst the incredible clamor of the lost souls!

A EXT. BLACK TOWER - NIGHT

97A

The pillar of intense light bursts through the tower and penetrates the low-scudding clouds overhead. We can just sense some ethereal presence contained within the beam, as the voices swell.

97B INT. BLACK TOWER DUNGEON - SPECTRAL SHAFT OF LIGHT

97B

The pillar of light now begins to widen, as if great doors had been swung open on the dungeon, admitting dazzling sunlight to prisoners of the dark. For the briefest of moments we see the vaporous visages of dozens of warriors, mouths shouting with joy, the spectral music of their many voices forming some strange harmony now, as the ectoplasmic vision streams up with the light through the dungeon roof... free! The light beam continues to expand, illuminating the entire dungeon in a blinding glare, until Liu and the others are enveloped in a dazzling WHITE OUT.

NEW ANGLE - MOMENTS LATER

The light recedes, and the harmonious voices mute. Liu blinks, looks around, and sees...

CHAN

standing there, corporeal, smiling gently. The narrow pillar of light still rises from the pit behind him.

INCLUDE LIU

Liu is moved to tears.

LIU

Brother. It's really you.

CHAN

It's really me. I can see the sacred flame, Liu. It's burning bright, inside you.

Liu reaches out to Chan. They cannot touch. Both smile. Liu lowers his hand first.

LIU

Go in peace, my brother.

A second thin beam of light emanates from Chan, connecting him to the larger pillar of light. Chan becomes one with its dazzling beam... gone.

C EXT. BLACK TOWER - NIGHT

97C

The pillar of light streams from the Tower for another moment, piercing the low clouds. Then it fades. The voices cease.



D INT. BLACK TOWER DUNGEON - NIGHT

97D \*

Liu joins his friends, and Kitana. Johnny hugs him, unable for once in his life find the words. A moment later, Sonya does the same. Then...

LIU

Let's go home.

98 EXT. LIU KANG'S VILLAGE - DUSK

98

On the hill above the temple, the beacon fire burns joyfully on the Altar of Light. The village is in the midst of an enormous celebration. Among the cheerful and vivacious villagers, Sonya and Johnny walk side by side. They are both happy.

JOHNNY

Look, you probably think I came to rescue you in Outworld, because of some male pride thing, but....

SONYA

I know why you came.

JOHNNY

You do?

There is a look in her eye that hasn't been there before. Johnny can't look away from it. To his amazement, she leans in and kisses him gently. After his initial reaction, he returns the kiss.

ON ALTAR OF LIGHT

Rayden, stands near the Grandfather, both smiling and waving at the celebrating throngs below.

GRANDFATHER

I knew he could do it!

RAYDEN

(disingenuous)  
So did I. Never had a moment's doubt.

Rayden's expression seems to say otherwise as the Grandfather glances sideways at him... but who is he to question a god!

99 EXT. OUTSIDE VILLAGE

99

Kitana and Liu talk as they walk along the dikes of the rice paddy, the beacon and the lanterns of the village reflect on the still waters. The noise of celebration is more muted as it carries across to them.

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED:

99

LIU

Stay here. Don't go back.

KITANA

I can't. My people need me to lead them. Your world is safe... mine isn't.

LIU

Then I'll go back to Outworld with you. I'll help you fight the Emperor.

KITANA

You saved your world. By defeating Shang you have given us hope for ours. But only the people of Outworld can save it.

LIU

I... I want to see you again.

KITANA

(flash of humor; teasing)

I don't know. What do the legends say?

LIU

I think from now on...

(bending toward her)

We make our own legends.

(then; tenderly)

Kitana....

She puts a gentle finger to his lips to keep him from saying more, and kisses him. Then she leaves. Rayden suddenly walks up behind Liu, smiling. Liu notices him.

LIU

(worried)

Am I going to see her again?

RAYDEN

(teasing)

Oh, I suppose you'll bump into her again, someday.

LIU

I won't wait long.

(CONTINUED)

99 CONTINUED: 2

99

RAYDEN

(raises an eyebrow)

Those who look for trouble, seldom wait long....

(mutters wryly)

If he's not off saving a world, somewhere, he gets bored!

(then)

There are more adventures ahead. And, knowing you... you'll manage to drag me into them... and those new friends of yours.

Johnny smiles at Rayden's sly way of twisting things.

LIU

Good. The sooner the better.

Rayden shakes his head, then turns to look at the magnificent beacon fire on the hilltop. Liu turns to watch it as well.

RAYDEN

(disapproving)

You're a very impatient man, Liu Kang...

RAYDEN

(then, confides)

It's what I've always liked about you!

Liu shoots a surprised look at Rayden, who smiles without taking his eyes from the beacon fire.

THE BEACON FIRE

burns brightly, sending sparks into the night sky. It fades into the Mortal Kombat logo as we...

100 OMITTED

100

FADE OUT.

THE END